

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Development Plan Scheme 2025-2026

Assessment ID	IIA-002658
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1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

IAA of the Development Plan Scheme 2025-2026

During screening 4 of 11 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 2 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

In total there are 6 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 2 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by paul.macari2@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy relate to budget proposals?	No

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	No Negative Impacts Identified
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Health Inequalities	Not Required
Town Centre's First	Not Required

4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Safe		Yes		
Healthy		Yes		
Achieving		Yes		
Nurtured		Yes		
Active		Yes		
Respected	Yes			
Responsible	Yes			
Included	Yes			

4.2. Rights Indicators

UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy	Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child Article 13 - Freedom of expression
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4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Included	The Development Plan Scheme recognises that young people are a key sector of the community who may have their own perspective on issues that affect them both now, as children, (such as availability of play spaces) and in the future as they mature into adulthood and seek homes and jobs.
Responsible	The Development Plan Scheme recognises that young people may have significant and real concerns about the environment that they currently live in and will mature to in adulthood. The Development Plan Scheme recognises that these interests are not trivial and young people can act responsibly when giving their views on environmental topics.
Respected	The Development Plan scheme recognises that a plan for the future will have a profound effect on children as they mature to adulthood and they have a clear interest in being involved in deciding what that future should be.

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Engagement with School Youth Forums and Community Youth workers	Early engagement was undertaken with School Youth Forums on the importance and relevance to them of the Local Development Plan. It was clear from these meetings that young people care deeply about the future that they will inherit and are keen to be involved in the decisions relating to future land use and land use strategy.	Targeted and appropriate effort is required to engage with young people at least on a par with that conducted for the general public
Other Evidence	Analysis of submissions to the Proposed Local Development Plan 2020	Although not audited observation by staff is that young people were disproportionately represented as respondents to the general consultation on issues, or on the Proposed Local Development Plan 2020 compared to the adult population.	Specific actions are required to encourage and empower young people to be involved in the preparation of the Local Development Plan.

4.5. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

Early engagement took place through discussion with youth participation groups in Aberdeenshire, including the Pupil Participation Forum, Community Youth Platforms, and Specific Interest Groups. This has informed the approach that is now being implemented. Already there is significant engagement on the Local Development Plan through the Evidence Report consultations, and engagement through the School Youth Forums has proven to be very fruitful and School Parent Forums for younger children.

4.6. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

A significant part of the Local Development Plan is development of future ideas for the provision of accessible open and play spaces, and promoting of networks of services accessible by active travel. Young people (who have a lived in experience that is dominated by an inability to use a motor car) will have a specific perspective on the issues.

4.7. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights

While we record the age group of formal correspondents to any consultations that we undertake for monitoring purposes, this does not influence the weight that is put to the comments made. Good ideas are supported no matter their source. This upholds childrens' and young peoples' rights.

4.8. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

Positive activities are promoted to encourage young people to engage with the Local Development Plan and no account is taken of the age of correspondents in the evaluation of submissions made to inform the Local Development Plan.

5. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

5.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)			Yes	
Age (Older)		Yes		
Disability			Yes	
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

5.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income		Yes		
Low wealth		Yes		
Material deprivation		Yes		
Area deprivation	Yes			
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

5.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Area deprivation	Focusing on online engagement empowers people who have internet access but are mobility deprived due to where they live.

5.4. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
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Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Age (Younger)	<p>Lack of understanding of the concepts and processes being promoted</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Documents prepared will be reviewed for plain language. Our engagement has complied with appropriate National Standards for Community Engagement by identifying and seeking to overcome barriers to participation by this audience. Active engagement and awareness raising of the role and function of the Local Development Plan will continue to be made. Active steps will be taken to assist those who do not wish to use the online engagement proposed.</p> <p>Timescale During the Call for Ideas project stage.</p>
Disability	<p>Lack of understanding by some people of the concepts and processes described</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Previous experience has shown that using the traditional methods of engagement with some hard to reach groups presents additional challenges. Notwithstanding this the national standards for community consultation provide advice and guidance for Authorities in how to engage with traditionally hard to reach groups which have been incorporated into the engagement strategy. Engagement with carers will continue to be promoted. The lived experience network will also assist in ensuring as wide and effective engagement as possible is undertaken. Active steps will be taken to assist those who do not wish to use the online engagement proposed.</p> <p>Timescale During the call for Ideas stage of the plan making process.</p>

5.5. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Observational experience from previous consultations	Previous experience has shown the vast majority of engagement has been on-line. This has resulted in the adoption of the processes proposed for the call for ideas stage of the project.	The burden imposed on officers from those not submitting ideas on-line is likely to be very small and thus manageable. Doing it digitally has been a feature of many previous Local Development Plans.

5.6. Engagement with affected groups

There are no regulations regarding the scope and nature of public engagement published by the Scottish Government. Best practice from the National Standards for Community Engagement have been adopted and guidance on Community Engagement published by the Scottish Government has been adopted. Public consultation is proposed on the Draft Development Plan Scheme. This will largely be on-line.

5.7. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

A contacts list has been developed and updated from previous engagement to ensure that community groups and other stakeholders can be directly informed of the engagement proposed on the Development Plan Scheme.

5.8. Evidence of engagement

The stakeholder mailing list and newsletter subscribers total more than 1000 individuals, 800 of whom represent specific interest groups. This network has been used successfully in the previous stage of the plan making process to ensure awareness of consultation exercises.

5.9. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Personal engagement with planning officers when an on-line submission cannot be made will be a personal choice and may prove to be a barrier for some individuals

The objective of the Development Plan Scheme is to harness the views of communities rather than individuals. While we are trying to avoid inadvertent discrimination against individuals, the small degree of bias that this will introduce the methods proposed is negligible. There will be other opportunities in the plan making process for those who feel aggrieved to express a view.

5.10. Improving Relations

All ideas can be presented for comment through the consultation process

5.11. Opportunities of Equality

This allows debate and discussion, or contradiction of an asserted view, by other groups in a fair and transparent manner.

6. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
Ensure that opportunities to respond in the Call for Ideas by means other than on-line are made clear to potential participants	<p>Lead Officer Piers Blaxter</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Thursday May 15, 2025</p> <p>Planned Finish Wednesday December 31, 2025</p> <p>Expected Outcome Additional texts added to consultation promotion materials</p> <p>Resource Implications Negligable</p>