

Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2029 – Call for Ideas Survey

Aberdeenshire Council launched a Call for Ideas on 16 July 2025. The purpose of the Call for Ideas is to help inform preparation of the next Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan.

The Local Development Plan is a forward-looking plan for how land will be used and developed across the area. It sets out a shared vision for encouraging the right kind of growth in the right places, helping communities thrive while protecting what matters most.

The new Local Development Plan will cover the 10 year period from 2029 to 2039 and will be the first prepared by the Council following the adoption of National Planning Framework 4. The Plan will provide a long-term vision, setting out how our places will change in the future, including where development should and should not happen.

In completing its first key milestone in the plan making process, Aberdeenshire Council's Evidence Report was approved by Aberdeenshire Council on 26 June 2025. The Evidence Report has subsequently been submitted to the Scottish Government's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) for their 'Gate Check' assessment to be undertaken. This DPEA process is expected to take approximately 3 months. Progress can be followed and all associated documents viewed on the DPEA's website: [Development plan examinations: list - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/development-plan-examinations/list/pages/1.aspx) DPEA Case Reference GATE-110-1.

[Note: Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory and must be completed before submission]

Completed forms should be returned to:

Local Development Plan
Planning & Economy Service
Aberdeenshire Council
Woodhill House
Aberdeen
AB16 5GB

What can be suggested using this survey?

The Call for Ideas is an opportunity for individuals, community groups or other organisations to suggest:

- Aspects of the current [Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023](#) that should be retained/ changed.
- Amendments required to existing Settlement Statements – This could be to:

- change the settlement Vision to ensure it reflects the community's aspirations
- protect areas of open space, amenity area or recreational space in your community that contribute to its sense of place
- reserve sites for specific land uses e.g. health and care facilities, education, cemeteries, etc.
- any changes required to existing designations such as the green belt or Special Landscape Areas
- your views about where development should or should not occur
- where we should be promoting better retail or community facilities, or important walking, cycling and wheeling access routes that we should protect or try to create.
- Policy matters – it should be noted that Scotland's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) outlines the spatial strategy at a national level and contains national planning policies that apply Scotland wide. The local development plan is not required to duplicate NPF4 policies. Any local policies should focus on adding value by providing:
 - any further detail building on the NPF policies, or
 - place-based policies, such as:
 - setting out expectations of future development in particular locations
 - details of required developer contributions
 - design policies that reflect the local context, materials and vernacular style
 - providing for local variation from national policy to reflect local circumstances where this is considered necessary. For example, this may include local variations for rural development policies or energy development.

To facilitate individuals and communities with engagement on the Call for Ideas, [an interactive map](#) has been created. This map provides details on a variety of constraints and other important factors at both a Aberdeenshire wide level and local level. The map will be regularly updated to reflect ideas spatially as they are received and to also show prospective developments (bids) as they are received through the Call for Sites process running in parallel to the Call for Ideas.

Ideas and comments received will be considered by the Council in preparing the Proposed Local Development Plan during 2026. You can suggest your idea by completing a short survey. A new survey should be completed for each individual idea you wish to submit.

Communities who have registered their [Local Place Plan](#) with Aberdeenshire Council do not need to resubmit it as part of the Call for Ideas. Ideas, projects and aspirations that can be drawn from registered Local Place Plans will automatically be considered when evaluating all ideas put forward and in assessing prospective development sites submitted as part of the Call for Sites.

The Call for Ideas Survey will close on 31 December 2025.

FOI and EI requests

Ideas and comments received are generally considered as confidential whilst subject to initial assessment by officers.

We may be asked to provide information about individual ideas received, and copies of any correspondence, under:

- [Freedom of Information \(Scotland\) Act 2002](#)
- [Environmental Information \(Scotland\) Regulations 2004](#)

This information may only be withheld if its disclosure could:

- Prejudice commercial interests
- Inhibit the free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views during the planning process
- Prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs

It is at the Council's discretion to determine whether information qualifies for exemption. However, the purpose of the legislation is to promote accessibility unless a compelling reason for nondisclosure exists. Over time, information may become less sensitive and exemption less necessary.

Once the "ideas" assessment process is complete, Issues and Actions papers will be published around Autumn 2026. These will include a summary of the ideas submitted and the Council's response to these ideas, including any actions the Council will take moving towards the Proposed Local Development Plan.

Privacy Notice and Personal Information

Your Privacy*

Your privacy is important to us and a specific [Privacy Notice](#) is available, detailing what information we collect from you, what we do with it, and who it might be shared with for the purposes of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan.

Do you consent to the information you provide being used as set out in the Privacy Notice? If you complete this section as “I/We do not consent” this will take you to the end of the survey as consent is required to complete the survey.

☐ I/ We do consent

☐ I/We do NOT consent

Without consent to the Privacy Notice you are unable to complete the survey. You may go back and agree to the Privacy Notice in order to make a submission.

If you require further information, please contact the Policy Team at ldp@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

About You

Full name*

Name of company or organisation

Correspondence address* (please include postcode)

Email address*

Contact telephone number*

Which of the following best describes your role or interest in the proposal*

You can select more than one option:

- ☐ Aberdeenshire resident / Member of the Public
- ☐ Landowner
- ☐ Prospective developer
- ☐ Land agent / Planning Consultant
- ☐ Community Council / Community Group
- ☐ Business / Organisation
- ☐ Other (if selected, please specify)

Are you representing a developer, landowner or other organisation?*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Details of who you are representing

If acting on the behalf of others, please provide contact details of the third party below:

Name of developer, landowner, or other organisation you are representing (please list all names and addresses if there are multiple)*

Their correspondence address (please include postcode)

Their email address

Tell Us What your Idea Relates To

Ideas could be place or policy related or be related to something else.

- Place – For example, this include an existing Settlement Statement in the [Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023](#), current sites and land allocated in the current LDP, proposed new uses such as areas of land to be protected or reserved for community use.
- Policy – For example, a policy topic within Scotland's [National Planning Framework 4](#), the current Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023 or Aberdeenshire Council's [Evidence Report](#).

We recommend referring to these documents when providing details of your idea.

Ideas for Future Places

Does your idea relate to a specific place?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, state where or if applicable across Aberdeenshire please state 'Aberdeenshire Wide'. Or if applicable to a particular settlement, site or designation please provide details for example:

- Stating the Settlement name;
- Fraserburgh Settlement Statement Vision;
- OP1, Aboyne;
- P8 Inverurie;
- Deveron Valley Special Landscape Area;
- New Allotment in Cruden Bay.

Describe Your Idea (Limit your response to 400 words)

Ideas for Future Policy

Is your idea related to a specific policy area?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please select the relevant policy area(s). These are grouped together to align with the policy themes used in NPF4:

Sustainable Places

- ☐ Tackling climate and nature crises
- ☐ Climate mitigation and adaptation
- ☐ Biodiversity
- ☐ Natural places
- ☐ Soils
- ☐ Forestry, woodland, and trees
- ☐ Historic assets and places
- ☐ Green belts
- ☐ Brownfield, vacant, and derelict land
- ☐ Coastal development
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Zero waste
- ☐ Sustainable transport

Liveable Places

- ☐ Design, quality, and place
- ☐ Local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods
- ☐ Quality homes
- ☐ Rural homes
- ☐ Infrastructure first
- ☐ Heat and cooling
- ☐ Blue and green infrastructure
- ☐ Play, recreation, and sport
- ☐ Flood risk and water management
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Digital infrastructure

Productive Places

- ☐ Community wealth building
- ☐ Business and industry
- ☐ City, town, local, and commercial centres
- ☐ Retail

- ☐ Rural development
- ☐ Tourism
- ☐ Culture and creativity
- ☐ Aquaculture
- ☐ Minerals

Other Ideas (Limit your response to no more than 400 words)

If your idea is neither place nor policy specific please use the box below to provide details of your idea.

Please give us a summary of your idea. What do you propose? (Limit your response to no more than 400 words)

Please summarise the justification (or reasons) to support your idea.

You may wish to refer to the [Council's Evidence Report](#) and/ or [Scotland's National Planning Framework 4](#) to support your idea.

Additional Information (Limit your response to no more than 400 words)

Please provide any other information below which you feel is relevant to your idea.