

City Plan 2030

Development Plan Scheme

September 2021

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What is a Development Plan Scheme?

A development plan scheme sets out how the next local development plan will be prepared. It includes:

- an explanation of what a local development plan is
- a timetable for preparing the next plan, to be called City Plan 2030, and
- details on how you can get involved in preparing City Plan 2030.

The Council needs to publish a development plan scheme at least annually.

What is a Development Plan?

The planning system impacts on everyone. Our lives are shaped by the places we live, work and visit and these places are shaped by planning decisions. The Scottish Government requires Councils to prepare development plans for their areas. Local Development Plans contain a 10 year strategy for the future development of an area and set out policies and proposals to guide decision making on planning applications.

A local development plan needs to take account of the following statutory documents:

- **The National Planning Framework:** this sets out, at the national level, the Scottish Government's strategy for the country's spatial development, including developments of national importance. The third National Planning Framework was published in June 2014. A replacement national planning framework is expected to be prepared during the preparation of City Plan 2030.
- **A Strategic Development Plan:** this sets out a long term (20 years or more) spatial planning strategy for a city region, including where future development will be located and what is required to deliver it. The Strategic Development Plan for South East Scotland was approved in June 2013. It was

prepared by the Strategic Development Plan Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (SESplan). The six councils which are members of SESplan are Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian. The Strategic Development Plan, together with the local development plan and any associated supplementary guidance, form the statutory development plan referred to in decisions on planning applications.

- **Edinburgh Local Development Plan (2016)** - The current Edinburgh Local Development Plan (LDP) was formally adopted on 24 November 2016. The adopted plan is to be accompanied by twelve pieces of Supplementary Guidance. These will also form part of the overall development plan. They cover the following matters: 9 town centres, including the City Centre Retail Core, Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Delivery, Edinburgh BioQuarter and Little France Park and Heat Opportunities Mapping. The plan is being used to determine planning applications. It is accompanied by a statutory Action Programme which is being used to ensure delivery of the plan's policies and proposals, including necessary infrastructure. The plan is available online at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan.

Councils are currently required to review their local development plan at least every five years.

Changes to the Planning System

A Planning Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament in June 2019. It will not take effect for some time, because secondary legislation, guidance and transitional arrangements all need to be put in place by the Scottish Government. Accordingly, City Plan 2030 is being prepared under the existing legislation. Further information on changes to the planning system is available on the Scottish Government webpage.

The Bigger Picture

City Plan 2030 is being prepared at a time when the long-term future of Edinburgh is being considered.

- The draft **2030 Climate Strategy** which is leading the actions for change across Edinburgh by identifying what actions the city needs to take to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The **Climate Change Plan 2018-2032: Securing a Green Recovery on a Path to Net Zero** and **Climate Ready Scotland: Second Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024** set out key steps for achieving a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across Scotland.
- **The City Housing Strategy** sets our priorities for delivering housing and related services across all tenures and types of housing, supported by key delivery plans including the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP).
- The **City Mobility Plan** and our **City Centre Transformation Strategy** aim to change the future way we move around our city and our city centre.
- Proposals for Edinburgh's **Low Emission Zone** for the City Centre are being progressed and will be an important part of the drive of improving air quality. **Cleaner Air for Scotland 2** sets out the

importance of improving Scotland's air quality and taking a precautionary approach when considering effects of adverse air quality on health, even when particulate levels are below target thresholds.

- The **Council Business Plan, Adaptation and Renew Programme** and **Economic Strategy** aim to end poverty and support a green, resilient, and fair economy.
- Edinburgh's **Open Space Strategy** reviews the distribution, quality, types and accessibility of Edinburgh's open space and play areas as well as identifying opportunities to improve provision and access to these.
- The **Vision for Water Management in the City of Edinburgh** sets out key principles of how the city should manage its water environment, considering the increasing severity and complexity of challenges facing Edinburgh arising from the Climate Emergency.
- The **Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan** raises awareness of the City's biodiversity and the opportunities for positive actions to protect and enhance this.
- Work is ongoing with **Edinburgh's Nature Network** and the **Green Blue Network project**, with these showing the benefit of the City of Edinburgh and its new development being served by a coordinated network multifunctional green blue infrastructure. These reflect national objectives set out in the **Scottish Forestry Strategy 2019-2029, Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and 2017-2027 Pollinator Strategy**.

A NEW PLAN – CITY PLAN 2030

The new local development plan will be called City Plan 2030. This name is intended to help explain what time period the plan covers, and to be more user friendly than calling our next plan an ‘LDP’.

The process of preparing a Local Development Plan is set out below. We are currently at proposed plan stage.

Timetable



Timetable

Choices for City Plan consultation		January to April 2020
Proposed Plan reported to Planning Committee		September 2021
Period for representations on Proposed Plan	6 weeks statutory minimum	November – December 2021
Submit Plan and representations to Scottish Ministers	5 months after Proposed Plan formal publication	March 2022 (assumes no notifiable modifications)
Examination and Report of Examination	6 to 9 months (target) + 1 month administrative preparation	April 2022 – January 2023
Plan as Modified	Within 3 months after Report of Examination	
Notify Scottish Ministers of intention to adopt	Within 3 months after Report of Examination	
Adoption	Within 3 months after Plan as Modified	

Project stage duration estimates are derived from Circular 6/2013 Development Planning.

PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

The following section sets out how we intend to engage during the preparation of City Plan 2030, and what we have been doing so far.

Early Engagement (up to Autumn 2019)

We worked with community representatives and others to shape the choices to be presented in the main consultation stage in 2019/2020. This engagement included the following:

- Community briefings and workshops including 12 briefings with community councillors and ward councillors and 6 community workshops.
- Children and Young People Engagement Programme, including 9 Place Standard workshops in schools.
- Topic stakeholder discussion events, focusing on key land use issues including office and industry development, housing, visitor accommodation and shopping and leisure.
- Use of social media to build awareness and interest in the project.
- Engagement and consultation on closely-linked projects such as City Centre Transformation.

Choices for City Plan 2030 Consultation

The main issues report was the key consultation opportunity in the City Plan 2030 project. Our main issues report was called 'Choices for City Plan 2030'. It set out the main choices for the new plan, including the Council's preferred options for change and other reasonable alternatives. We consulted on these choices using the Council's online Consultation Hub from 31 January 2020 and accepted responses up to 30 April 2020.

The following activities were used to raise awareness and encourage people to have their say:

- Launch of consultation document
- Publicity to raise awareness of consultation and online engagement on Facebook, Twitter and Linked in.
- Notification to those groups and individuals on the project mailing list telling them how to comment.
- 11 key stakeholder sessions for key agencies, primary schools and transport groups, and three topic seminars (one seminar was cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic).
- 8 Drop-in sessions to allow opportunity to find out more about consultation proposals (one event cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic) Staffed exhibitions in public places to raise awareness.
- 5 consultation hub surgeries to enable people to ask detailed questions and complete the survey online

The consultation received 1807 formal responses. This compares to 438 responses to the Main Issues report which led to the current LDP. Social media statistics demonstrate that knowledge of the project reached 1.2 million people, with over 24,000 engagements on our posts.

The Proposed Plan

The Proposed Plan is due to be reported to the Planning Committee in September 2021. It will be accompanied by a summary explaining how the main issues consultation responses have been taken into account.

Proposed Plan Representation Period

The Proposed Plan will then be published for a minimum 6-week period in which representations can be made. These can support the Proposed Plan or seek changes to it. These representations will then be considered, first by the Council, then by a Scottish Government reporter in an examination. The examination report can make recommendations for changes to the plan.

Impact of Coronavirus / Covid -19 on the proposed Plan Representation Period

The impact of the current health emergency on the period of representations to the proposed plan is not known at this stage. The Chief Planner wrote to all Local Authorities on the 3 April 2020, encouraging progress on delivering Local Development Plans.

It is not known if social distancing and/or lockdown measures will be in place in October 2021 to enable traditional, in person, engagement to go ahead. Therefore, an update to this participation statement will be provided when the representation period starts.

However, if possible, some or all of the following activities will be used to raise awareness and encourage people to have their say on the proposed plan:

- Launch of proposed plan
- Publicity to raise awareness of proposed plan
- Statutory neighbour notification
- Notification to those groups and individuals on the project mailing list telling them how to comment
- Staffed exhibitions in public places to raise awareness
- Drop-in sessions to allow opportunity to find out more about consultation proposals
- Best practice online/digital engagement (as guided by the Scottish Government's digital planning programme) which could include virtual exhibitions, a planning engagement hub, webinars and online events.

- Non-digital engagement - including opportunities to ask informal questions, telephone surgeries, printed newsletters, hard copies of documents, paper letters and engagement via other council services

How to stay up to date

- Follow us: Twitter: @planningedin
- Blog: planningedinburgh.com
- View the project webpage at: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cityplan2030

To find out more about engagement in the City Plan 2030 project or add yourself to the mailing list: cityplan2030@edinburgh.gov.uk

Questions about the content of the current local development plan: localdevelopmentplan@edinburgh.gov.uk

Contact us by post: City Plan team, Waverley Court (G3), 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG.

You can request more copies of this leaflet by emailing cityplan2030@edinburgh.gov.uk

You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats if you ask us. Please contact Interpretation and Translation Service (ITS) on 0131 242 8181 and quote reference number (reference tbc). ITS can also give information on community language translations.

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