

ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

BULLETIN ITEM

Subject: 2022 Development Plan Scheme

Date: 2 February 2022

ECO: Infrastructure, Environment & Economy

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out a proposal to prepare the 2022 Development Plan Scheme / Newsletter later in the year to allow time to fully consider the implications of newly published secondary regulations and draft guidance for Development Plan preparation.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Note that the [2021 Development Plans Newsletter](#) will continue to act as the Council's most up to date Development Plan Scheme, and that the 2022 Development Plans Newsletter/Scheme will be referred to Committee later in the year.

4. Proposed timescale for the 2022 Development Plans Scheme / Newsletter

- 4.1 The annual [Development Plans Newsletter](#) outlines the priorities and timescales for development plan work over the coming year and how communities and stakeholders can be engaged in their preparation and delivery. It also acts as the Development Plan Scheme that the Council is required to prepare and submit to Scottish Government in line with planning legislation.

- 4.2 A draft Development Plan Scheme/Newsletter would normally be presented to the Economy & Infrastructure Committee for approval at the first meeting of the calendar year. However, this year it is proposed to delay its preparation to allow time to fully consider newly published secondary regulations and draft guidance for Development Plan preparation which are likely to have significant implications for the duties to be undertaken by the Council. The issues that we feel need to be considered in more detail are:-

- the wide range of audits and assessments required to act as the evidence base for new development plans;
- the implications for reviewing our plans including the potential; and
- refining our Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy

- 4.3 A consultation on the regulations and draft guidance coincides with the Scottish Government's consultation on Draft National Planning Framework 4 both of which have a deadline of 30 March. The Council's emerging response to NPF4 is being reported to this Committee on 2 February and Members will have the chance to finalise comments at an online Member Workshop that has been arranged for 25 February.
- 4.4 As drafted NPF4 and the wider regulations and guidance bring significant new duties that will need to be carried out for any new Development Plan reviews commenced from this point forward. Indeed, the Development Plan Scheme itself will become a more important tool for making clear how and when the Council will publish plans and consultations and background evidence related to the Development Plan. The proposal to delay the preparation of the Development Plan Scheme will allow time for the implications to be fully considered and for responses to the consultations to be prepared.
- 4.5 Further details on the implications of NPF4 and the new regulations will be outlined in the 2022 Development Plans Scheme which will be reported to Committee later in the year. In the meantime, the 2021 Development Plan Newsletter will continue to act as the Council's most up to date Development Plan Scheme and includes the following Participation Statement confirming how people can expect to be engaged in plan preparation.

4.6 **Participation Statement**

1. We will continue to use our online development plan webpages www.highland.gov.uk/devplans and corresponding consultation portal <http://consult.highland.gov.uk/> as the central location for engaging on our plans. Those that have registered through the portal will receive updates and announcements at key stages of development plan preparation.
2. We will produce interactive online documents that are easy to read and comment upon, and which include clear maps and graphics.
3. We will share online guides, videos or webinars to share information on our main consultations and look into options for holding meetings with particular groups and about specific issues.
4. We will make announcements at key stages using a range of media including social media to keep you up to date and let you know how and when you can get involved.
5. We will continue to liaise with statutory agencies and community groups at key stages to encourage them to participate.
6. In the event that libraries re-open we will provide copies of consultation documents for viewing.
7. In the event that the ban on public meetings is lifted we will review options for face-to-face events.
8. We will continue to notify the immediate neighbours of potential development sites at both the Main Issues Report and Proposed Plan stages of our Area Local Development Plans.
9. We will monitor feedback on our engagement methods and respond to requests to carry out other forms of engagement and/or extend periods of consultation.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy

Date: 20 January 2022

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Background Papers: Development Plan [Newsletter](#) / Scheme