

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME

June 2022



**North Lanarkshire Council
Planning and Regeneration**

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1 Introduction

North Lanarkshire Council is required to publish a Development Plan Scheme that sets out the programme for preparing and reviewing Development Plans, and what is likely to be involved at each stage.

It must be updated annually and include:

- A programme for preparing and reviewing the Local Development Plan;
- Set out what is likely to be involved at each stage;
- A **Participation Statement** setting out when, how and with whom consultation on the plan will take place;
- The authority's proposals for public involvement in the plan preparation process.

The Development Plan Scheme for North Lanarkshire was first published in April 2011.

The Council was unable to prepare a 2020 Development Plan Scheme, owing to adjustments introduced in response to Covid-19, not least the move to remote working and initial suspension of Committee consideration of non-application matters, along with the need to concentrate resources on preparations for the Modified Proposed Plan Examination. In addition, Covid-19 led to the Scottish Government pushing back implementation of key elements of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, resulting in continuing material uncertainty and delay.

2 The Statutory Development Plan for North Lanarkshire

Development Plans set out policies and proposals for the future development and use of land in our towns and countryside; where development should, or should not, happen and how development affects its surroundings. They are the basis for decision making on planning applications.

They consider a wide range of land use matters including economic development and infrastructure, retail and town centres, housing and community facilities and the natural and built environment with a view to creating high quality, sustainable places.

The current Development Plan for North Lanarkshire consists of the **Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan**, the **North Lanarkshire Local Plan** and a suite of **Supplementary Planning Guidance** notes. These are informed by the **National Planning Framework for Scotland**.

National Planning Framework for Scotland (NPF)

Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan (CSDP)

North Lanarkshire Local Plan (NLLP)

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPGs)

The **National Planning Framework for Scotland** is produced by the Scottish Government and sets out, in broad terms, the Scottish Ministers' strategy and priorities for Scotland's spatial development. National Planning Framework 3, came into effect in June 2014. NPF 4 is expected to be Adopted in late 2022.

The **Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan** is prepared by the 8 constituent councils that make up the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority and sets out a long-term Spatial Vision and Spatial Development Strategy for the wider Glasgow city-region until 2036. It was Approved by Scottish Ministers on 24 July 2017

The **North Lanarkshire Local Plan** was prepared by North Lanarkshire Council and sets out more detailed policies and proposals to guide development in North Lanarkshire over the next 5 – 10 years. It was Adopted on 28 September 2012.

Supplementary Planning Guidance notes prepared by North Lanarkshire Council provide more detailed guidance on specific issues. There are currently 30 adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes for North Lanarkshire.

3 Local Development Plan

The North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan will replace the North Lanarkshire Local Plan. It will contain a spatial strategy, proposals map, action programme for identified developments and schedule of the local authority's land interests affected by Plan policies or proposals. It will focus on specific proposals for the period up to Year 10 from Adoption.

The Local Development Plan will be integrated with Council and Partner statutory plans and strategies affecting the development of land. It will take account of the National Planning Framework and be consistent with its relevant Strategic Development Plan and other plans, including The Community Plan and Local Housing Strategy.

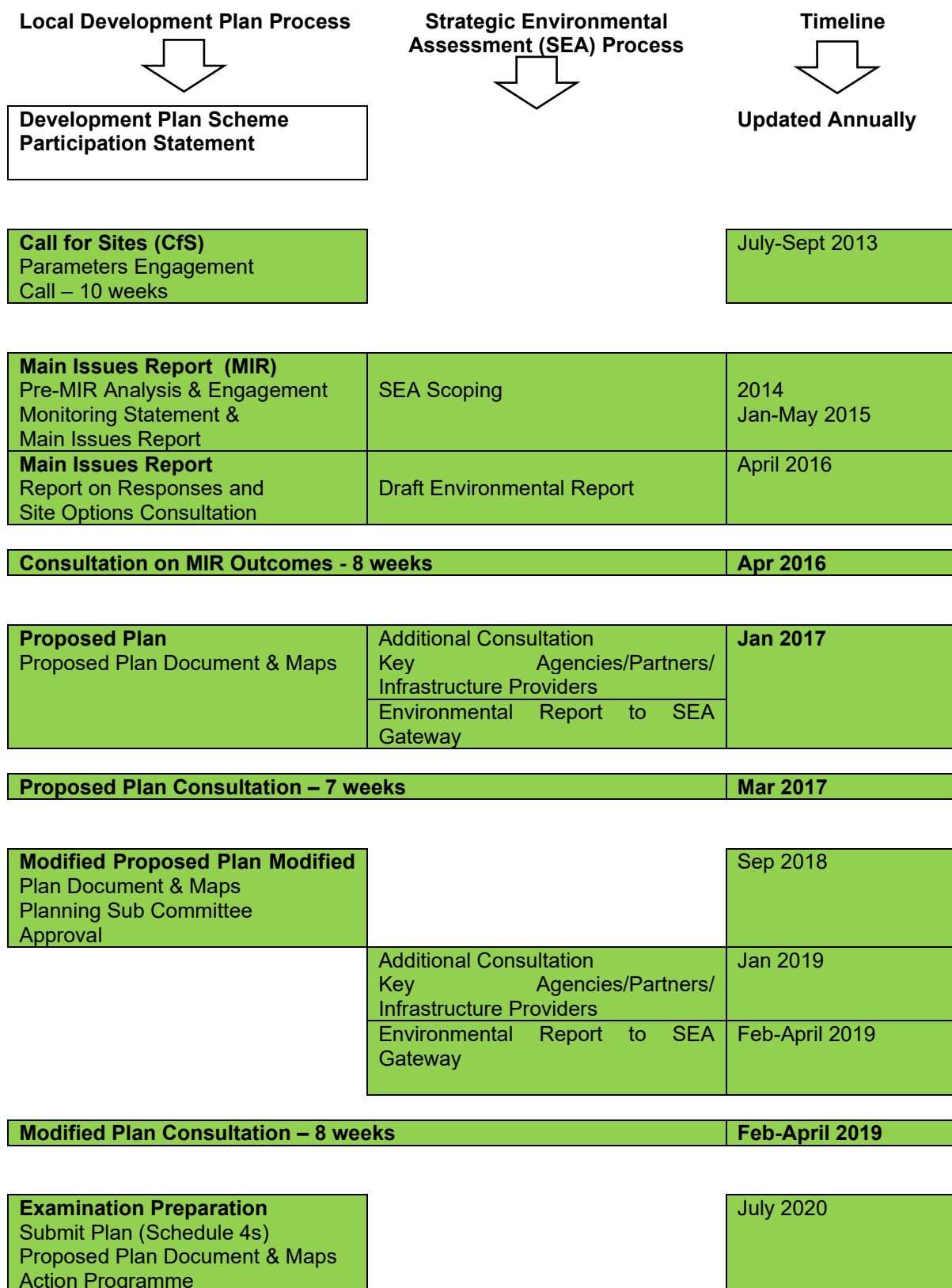
Statutory and other Assessments of The North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan

The Local Development Plan is required to include the following:

- A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – a process of scoping potential environmental impacts resulting from future Local Development Plan development strategy, policy or proposals. This will be carried out in conjunction with Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland.
- Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) (North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan's incorporates a Human Rights Impact Assessment and the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) – a process for ensuring that Local Development Plan strategy, policy or proposal address potential impacts on disadvantaged individuals or groups and assessing them against broader impacts on health and wellbeing.
- Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record – a process for assessing Local Development Plan strategy, policies and proposals against potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites and set out potential mitigation.

4 Local Development Plan Timescales

The intended timescales for preparing the Local Development Plan, together with accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment are laid out below



Local Development Plan Process



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Process



Timeline



| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------|
| Examination – Outwith Council Control Commenced 20th October 2020 | | |
| Further Information Requests | | 2020/21 |
| Report of Examination | | May 2021 |
| Adoption process | | |
| Submit Plan for Adoption | Amend Environmental Report | March 2022 |
| Formal Adoption | | 2022 |
| | Post Adoption Environmental Report | 2022 |
| | | |

Completed Stages

5 North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan

Local Development Plan Process

The Council undertook a 10-week **Call for Sites** in 2013, during which some 175 sites were promoted. A **Main Issues Report (MIR)** was published in March 2015 outlining key changes affecting North Lanarkshire since Adoption of North Lanarkshire Local Plan in 2012, covering the Council's preferred options for development in North Lanarkshire and alternative development strategies and sites. 45 additional sites were introduced during the 11-week consultation period, making a total of 220 sites submitted for consideration. In April 2016, the Council approved a Report on the outcomes of the Main Issues Report and the Urban Boundary Review, outlining which of the 220 sites were likely to be included wholly or in part in any forthcoming Plan.

The **Proposed Plan** was approved in August 2016 and published in January 2017 for a 7-week consultation period, containing the Council's final proposals and policies. Engagement stage included the opportunity to submit formal objections and for those objections to ultimately be determined through an Examination held by Scottish Government Reporters.

All development site owners / occupiers / neighbours were notified and a schedule of proposals affecting land in Council ownership was prepared. The Proposed Plan and associated documents resulted in some 1,594 representations being received.

Local Development Plan Modified Proposed Plan, Examination & Adoption

The Development Plan Scheme February 2018 outlined the Council's intention to prepare a Modified Proposed Plan, in light of the Scottish Ministers' decision to Approve the Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan being subject to Legal Challenge, which concluded in March 2018. The Modified Proposed Plan updated the Plan and afforded a further opportunity to anyone who wished to make comment/objection through an 8-week period of consultation that ended in April 2019.

407 contributions were received during that consultation period and these were validated, acknowledged and categorised in order to derive the necessary documentation for unresolved issues (objections) to be sent for Examination by Scottish Government Reporters, along with the Modified Proposed Plan. The Examination formally began on 20 October 2020 and is expected to take 6-9 months

The Plan includes all relevant land-use strategies, policies, development proposals and maps. It is available on the Council website.

It contains:

A vision statement for North Lanarkshire setting out how development of the area could be undertaken and what it might look like.

A spatial strategy incorporating a detailed statement of policies and development proposals for the area to achieve the vision.

A long-term sustainable settlement strategy is included that will meet Council needs, priorities and aspirations, with details of Infrastructure requirements related to planned growth.

Supplementary Guidance

The Plan has a focus on vision, spatial strategy, overarching and other key policies and proposals. Detailed material associated with the development strategy will be contained in supplementary guidance. Changes brought in by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 will affect the Council's ability to produce Supplementary Guidance, as the Section 9 of the 2019 Act, on commencement, removes any provisions for preparing and adopting statutory Supplementary Guidance. This may have an impact on the contents of future Local Development Plans.

Action Programmes

A Local Development Plan Action Programme has been prepared to assist in delivering the Plan's objectives. It includes:

- list of actions required to deliver each of the Plan's policies and proposals
- names of parties responsible for each action
- timescale for implementation

The Action Programme accompanied the Modified Proposed Plan to Examination. It will be confirmed within 3 months of Plan Adoption, reviewed and updated every 2 years.

Examination and Adoption

As outlined, Examination of the Modified Proposed Plan commenced on 20th October 2020. The Report of Examination was published in May 2021

The report deals with 35 unresolved issues identified by the Council and recommends changes in both the presentation and content of some policies within the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan Modified Proposed Plan documents.

Of particular note in the are:-

- Merging of all Guidance sections into Policy
- A replacement PROM LOC3 Policy on Promoting Housing Development Sites
- Replacement of the Housing Land Requirements Appendix and substitution of the 2019 Housing Land Audit sites for the 2017 Housing Land Audit Sites
- A replacement section in Policy PROM ID2 Utilities Improvements on Renewable Energy

In addition to these Recommended changes the Council received a letter in August 2021 from the DPEA confirming that any changes required because of the Recommendations made by the Reporters should also be made. In accordance with the Regulations a number of further changes of a grammatical, typographical or factual nature have also been made to the text within the Policy Document.

Following in-depth analysis of the Recommendations, and consequential changes and amendments, there is only one instance where the Council is seeking to depart from the Recommendations. This is in respect of the Reporters' Recommendations at Issues 010 and 012. These Recommendations are contradictory in that they call for the designation of different numbers of Commercial Centres under a description which does not apply to them all.

The Plan Intended for Adoption was submitted to the Scottish Government in March 2022. Adoption is expected in summer 2022.

6 North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2

Implications of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduces significant and far reaching changes to the development planning system in Scotland. A “Purpose for Planning” which makes provisions for the Development Plan to manage the development and use of land in the long-term public interest, contributing to sustainable development and achieving national outcomes.

The Act changes the current hierarchy of plans by enhancing the status of the National Planning Framework (NPF) merging it with Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) to produce a high level plan for Scotland which, amongst other things, sets out how the Scottish Ministers consider development will contribute to achieving the National Outcomes, sets out targets for housing and identifies national developments. This statutory document is to be prepared by the Scottish Ministers and reviewed every 10 years, rather than every 5 years which is the current requirement.

The requirement for the preparation of strategic development plans (SDPs) is removed and instead introduces the requirement for planning authorities, working alone, or in partnership with two or more planning authorities to form strategic partnerships, to prepare and adopt a Regional Spatial Strategy. A planning authority must adopt a regional spatial strategy as soon as practicable after this part of the Act comes into force and the Government has the power to direct planning authorities to prepare and adopt such strategies.

Regional Spatial Strategies will inform the NPF and Local Development Plans (LDPs). The NPF and Local Development Plans are to be prepared at least every 10 years rather than every 5 years.

The requirement for the production of a Main Issues Report (MIR) for Local Development Plans is removed and replaced with an Evidence Report. The Evidence Report will require to be examined by an independent Reporter at the start of the plan process who will then decide if the information in the report is sufficient for the Planning Authority to start preparation of the Local Development Plan.

A further significant change is the introduction of the right for communities to come together and prepare Local Place Plans (LPPs). Before preparing a Local Development Plan, a Planning Authority must invite local communities in their district to prepare LPPs, stating the date by which they must be prepared and details of the assistance available for local communities to prepare LPPs. In preparing its LDP the planning authority must have regard to LPPs.

Other changes introduce requirements for Development Plans introduced by the Act include the carrying out of Play Sufficiency Assessments, preparation of Open Space Strategies to inform the LDP. Additionally, on commencement of Section 15 of the Act, it will be required to gather evidence and prepare policies and proposals on subjects new to land use planning, including the provision of water refill locations and public conveniences, as well as making informed statements on matters relating to health, education and cultural venues. There remains no guidance, or indication as to how these tasks are to be carried out and how they relate to the policies and proposals of the authorities responsible, often statutorily, for these matters. The Act also removes the ability for Planning authorities to prepare and publish Statutory Supplementary Planning Guidance in support of a LDP.

The provisions of the Act affecting Development Plans have not been commenced to date and the Government intends to consult on regulations on these matters throughout 2021 making it difficult to be precise regarding the timetabling of the preparation of the next Local Development Plan.

LDP 2

North Lanarkshire Council is already considering the processes and project planning required to deliver its second Local Development Plan. However, there remain significant material uncertainties around crucial legislative, regulatory and strategic obligations and considerations that impact directly on the Council’s ability to prepare appropriately. These include the

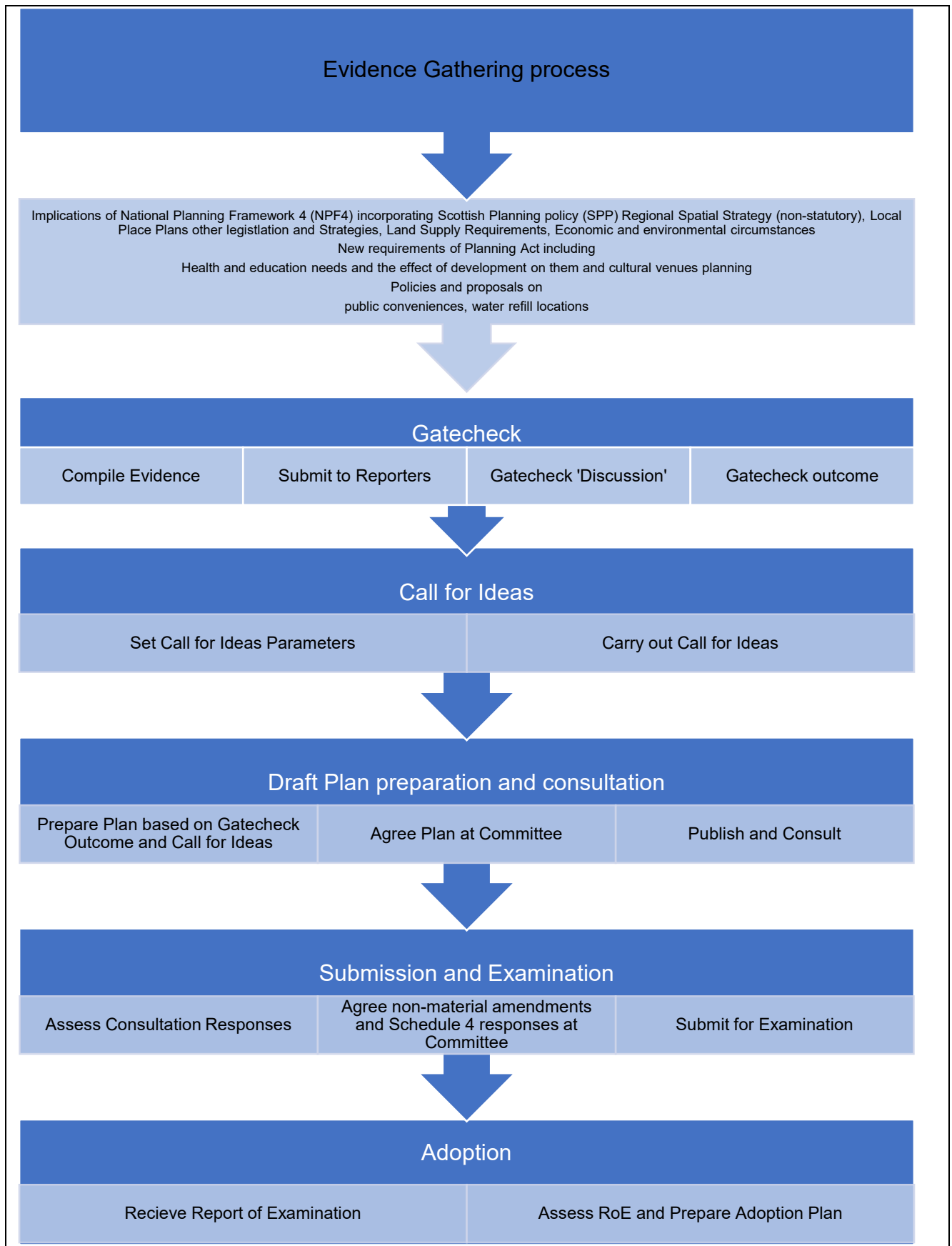
- Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 Implementation Timetable
 - LDP Implications
 - DM Implications to be included in LDPs
- Local Development Planning Regulations
 - Timetable
 - Contents
- National Planning Framework 4 and Scottish Planning Policy
 - Timetable
 - Contents
 - Applicability to Development Planning
 - Delivery strategy
- Regional Spatial Strategy
 - Timetable
 - Contents
 - Status in Development Planning

Based on our understanding of the changes outlined above and an assessment of the likely timescales to carry out this work undertaken by Heads of Planning Scotland the following tables have been prepared outlining the range of Plans, Policies, Strategies and legislation that affect the LDP process, the process of developing and an indicative timetable for production of LDP2.

Local Development Plan and Related Strategies & Polices, Lead Authorities and Current Status

| Plan and related Strategies & Policies | Lead | Current Status |
|---|------------------|---|
| North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan (Modified Plan) | NLC | Plan Intended for Adoption submitted to Scottish Government in March 2022. Adoption expected in late 2022. |
| National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) incorporating Scottish Planning policy (SPP) | SG | Government laid the draft NPF4 in the Scottish Parliament in December 2021 with public consultation at that stage. The responses are now being assessed with a revised NPF4 expected in mid to late 2022 with Adoption thereafter. |
| Regional Spatial Strategy (non-statutory) | GCR - Clydeplan | Revised Indicative RSS submission April 2021. Final RSS 2022 following NPF4 Adoption. |
| Local Place Plans | Communities | Regulations in force from January 2022. Awaiting LDP Regulations to advertise for expressions of interest as per legislation. |
| Open Space Strategy | NLC | Consultation on Regulations completed March 2022. Regulations expected Autumn 2022. |
| Other Strategies (incl. Local Housing Strategy, Transportation Strategy, The Plan for North Lanarkshire, City Region City Deal, City Region Economic Strategy) | NLC and Partners | A range of NLC and Partner Strategies at various stages of development, some of which have statutory links to the Local Development Plan (e.g. Local Housing Strategy) |
| North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence Gathering process • Gatecheck • Call for Ideas • Draft Plan preparation and consultation • Submission and Examination • Adoption 2027 at earliest | NLC | <p>Draft Local Development Plan Regulations and Guidance were consulted upon concurrently with NPF4. Regulations are expected to be commenced following Adoption of NPF4 (likely late 2022). Subject to the timing and content of the regulations this is a potential timetable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence Gathering starts in 2022 and continues in 2023 (HoPS estimate this will take a year) • Gatecheck process 2024 (HoPS estimate this will 44 weeks) • Call for Ideas replaces Call for Sites and has moved to the post Gatecheck stage in draft regulations • Draft Plan preparation 2025 and consultation early 2026 (HoPS estimate 48-week process) • Submission 2026 and Examination 2026/27 (HoPS estimate 1-year process) • Adoption 2027 (HoPS estimate 16-week process) but this process is proposed to change in Draft LDP Regulations |

North Lanarkshire LDP2 Process



| NLLDP2 Indicative Timetable | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | |
|--|-------------|------|--|----------------------------|--|----------------------|------------------|
| Evidence Gathering process | | | | | | | |
| Gatecheck | | | 1 year | | | | |
| Call for Ideas | | | | 12 wks | | | |
| Draft Plan preparation | | | | 36 wks | | | |
| Draft Plan consultation | | | | | 12 wks | | |
| Assess Responses and Submission | | | | | 24 wks | | |
| Examination | | | | | | 36 weeks | |
| Adoption | | | | | | 16 wks | |
| SEA | SEA Scoping | | Consult with Key Partners and Agencies | Draft Environmental report | Consult with Key Partners and Agencies | Environmental report | Post Adoption ER |

7 Participation Statement & Engagement Strategy

The Participation Statement aligned with the Development Plan Scheme was published as a stand-alone document along with the Engagement Strategy and is attached below for reference. In light of the expanded range of previously considered non-planning “responsibilities” and taking account of the new sections 16A and 16B of the Act, the Council will have to review its Participation Statement and Engagement Strategy accordingly following commencement of those parts of the Act.

The Participation Statement and Engagement Strategy for the Local Development Plan, along with the most up to date Scottish Government requirements, guidance and advice will form the basis of a new Participation Statement and Engagement Strategy which will be incorporated in future Development Plan Schemes.

Stakeholders, including the wider public, have an important role in shaping their Plan. The Council's Engagement Strategy will guide engagement for the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 and will set out when, how and with whom consultation on the plan will take place, and the Council's proposals for public involvement in the plan preparation process.

The Strategy will be updated regularly throughout the process and can be accessed through the Council's website.

The Council is committed to engaging with communities in line with the National Standards on Community Engagement:

Relevant Parties for Engagement

These are detailed in the relevant documents but are outlined below. The following stakeholders are Key Agencies, have geographical or strategic planning association with North Lanarkshire, are community or residents' groups, or may be expected to have an interest in the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan.

- Key Agencies;
- Public sector organisations
- Partner Organisations
- Special Interest & Representative Organisations
- Community & Representative Organisations
- Members of the Public
- Private Sector Organisations
- Special interest & representative organisations
- Private sector organisations

8 Planning and Regeneration Service Contact Details

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By Email: ESNLLDP@northlan.gov.uk

By Mail: Enterprise & Communities
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**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY



**North Lanarkshire Council
Planning and Regeneration**

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

1. The North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan will be the key document which sets the land use framework for North Lanarkshire.
2. The North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan is a land use policy document which has a significant influence on what is built on or what uses can be undertaken on land in North Lanarkshire. It does this by allocating sites for specific land uses such as housing, retailing, business and industry or developments such as schools, health centres and waste management facilities and by including policies designed to promote the economic, social, physical and environmental well being for North Lanarkshire. It therefore affects everyone who lives in, works in or visits North Lanarkshire.
3. The North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan will replace the current adopted North Lanarkshire Local Plan. The first North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan is planned for adoption in 2017.
4. We are committed to preparing the Council's first North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan on the basis of genuine engagement with a broad range of stakeholders and this Strategy sets out how we will achieve this.
5. The Council is required to publish a Development Plan Scheme that sets out the programme for preparing and reviewing Development Plans, and what is likely to be involved at each stage. The Development Plan Scheme must be updated annually and will be published alongside the Participation Statement which in turn sets out when, how and with whom consultation on the plan will take place and the Council's proposals for public involvement in the plan preparation process.

6. Engagement with a broad range of stakeholders is an important part of the production of the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan. However although important, the outcome of this is only part of the evidence base upon which decisions are made.
7. It is intended this Strategy and the Participation Statement will ensure that the outcome of engagement undertaken throughout the Local Development Plan process and its role in the decision making process is clearly understood and any decisions taken are made in a transparent way.

HOW DOES THE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY WORK?

8. The purpose of the Strategy is to set the background and outlines the Strategy's objectives to support and improve the effectiveness of engagement with stakeholders by providing guidance for Council staff and a clear explanation for stakeholders **who** will be engaged, **when** and **how** and also **what** engagement has happened so far in the preparation of the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan.
9. The Participation Statement will be updated regularly throughout the preparation of the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan to provide an up to date position on the Council's progress and to respond to issues as they arise.
10. The use of 'we' within this strategy refers to the Development Plan Team within the Council's Planning and Regeneration Service. We are responsible for the preparation of the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan on the Council's behalf, for approval by the elected members.

LEGAL CONTEXT

11. The Stakeholder Engagement Strategy is about making a complex statutory process accessible to stakeholders so that they can influence its policies. It is not about focussing on technical details. However, every element of the Plan's preparation is influenced by legislation and policy guidance.
12. The preparation and adoption of the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan is a legal process and it is important to be aware that:
 - The North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan is a statutory document the Council is required by law to prepare. The [Town and Country Planning \(Scotland\) Act 1997](#), as amended by the [Planning etc \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#) requires Council's to prepare a development plan for their area. These plans must be updated every five years.
 - The process of preparing the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan is also determined by law. The [Town and Country Planning \(Development Planning\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2008](#) provides the detail for the preparation and publication of local development plans and in particular provides a minimum set of requirements for consultation and publicity of local development plans.
13. In addition to legislation, the Council is also required to observe a number of policies and advice documents prepared by the Scottish Government. These take the form of:
 - National Planning Framework 3
 - Scottish Planning Policy
 - Planning Advice Notes, Guides, Letters from the Chief Planner; and
 - Circulars (including the [Planning Series Circular 6/2013: Development Planning](#))
14. Planning Advice Note 3/2010 Community Engagement provides advice to communities on how they can get involved as well as

advising planning authorities and developers on ways of effectively engaging with communities on planning matters. The Planning Advice Note 3/2010 also links directly with the **National Standards for Community Engagement**. The Standards set out best practice principles for the way that councils and other public bodies should engage with communities.

15. Planning Aid Scotland has produced SP=EED (Scottish Planning equals Effective Engagement and Delivery) as a practical guide to effective community engagement in planning. This Strategy has been produced to be in line with this guide.

STAKEHOLDERS AND EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT

16. Throughout this Strategy the terms 'stakeholder' and 'communities' are interchangeable. They refer to any person, group or organisation that has an interest in, could be affected by or could affect the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan.
17. Stakeholders could be individual residents, neighbourhoods, community groups, businesses, landowners, developers, parents, government organisations, and people with disabilities or special interest groups.
18. When talking about engagement, we are referring to actions or processes that enable stakeholders to be aware of, or be involved in the Local Development Plan process and then use their input to make more informed decisions.
19. Substantial changes have been made recently to Scotland's planning system. As part of this modernisation, there has been a wider push for **earlier and more effective engagement**.
20. In order for **engagement to be effective** it needs to be genuinely open and accessible. This means ensuring that people are aware of the Local Development Plan as early in the process as possible, that they have the facts that allow them to make a genuine contribution, that they have had the opportunity to engage and that, having made

their views known, they get a clear explanation of how and why decisions were made.

21. Engagement has been **designed into** the reformed planning system and it is integral to the process of preparing a Local Development Plan.

22. For example, Council's are required to let communities know at the beginning of the process when and how engagement will happen through the Development Plan Scheme. Council's are required to identify the main land use issues for their area and consult on the options for how these can be addressed through a Main Issues Report prior to drafting a new plan. This means that communities are involved earlier in the process and have more influence over the outcomes.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF ENGAGEMENT

23. The purpose of engagement refers to the level or role of stakeholder involvement and the amount of influence they have in the process.

24. For the purposes of this Strategy, three levels of engagement are used to describe the nature and purpose of engagement methods. These are **inform**, **consult** and **involve**.

25. Some engagement methods seek to simply 'inform' stakeholders and there is no expectation of receiving feedback, consequently there is a low level of public involvement. However, when the purpose of engagement is to 'involve' stakeholders this implies a more interactive process with increased expectations by stakeholders and an increased level of influence.

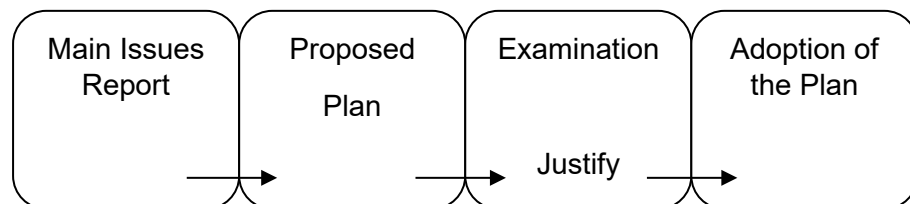
26. The nature of these three levels of engagement is described in the diagram below.

Table 1

| Inform | Consult | Involve |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Purpose: to provide stakeholders with balanced and objective information</p> | <p>Purpose: to seek stakeholder views on policy</p> | <p>Purpose: to seek stakeholder views and input to policy</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One way flow of information • Purpose is to provide information/educate • Factual Information is needed to describe a policy, program or process • Foundation of all community engagement processes • There is no opportunity to influence the final outcome • Information is necessary to abate concerns or prepare for involvement • To advise the public needs on the results of a process • A decision may have already been made (no decision is required), i.e. informing that the plan is adopted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-way interactive process • There is an opportunity to influence the final outcome. • Input may shape policy directions • To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two way flow of information • A higher level of participation is expected from stakeholders than with consulting. • In depth joint working with key stakeholders • We wish to encourage discussion among and with stakeholders |
| <p>Increasing level of stakeholder engagement</p> | | |

27. Table 1 indicates the purpose of engagement for each stage of the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan preparation process and is summarised in the figure below.

Both Table 1 and the figure below clearly illustrate that higher levels of stakeholder involvement will be towards the start of the process, allowing genuine opportunities to influence the process and that providing information is important throughout the plan process.



A LONGER TERM APPROACH

28. This Strategy is not only about how we engage communities in the preparation of the Council's first North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan, but also subsequent development plans. Some of our actions will be focussed on raising the profile and awareness of the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan and the land use planning process with a view to increasing the interest in, ease and desire for stakeholders to be involved.

29. This will take time and commitment and the benefits are likely to be more significant to future development plans. We see this as investing in both the present and future communities' capacity to be involved in the land use planning process.

BENEFITS OF ENGAGEMENT

30. Both communities and the Council stand to benefit from effective engagement.

Benefits to the community

- Allow the various communities within North Lanarkshire to influence the decision-making process
- Result in decisions being made that are more likely to reflect the needs of communities and be supported by them.
- Foster a sense of belonging to the community and create stronger communities.
- Empower individuals with regard to issues that affect them.
- More transparency and accountability

Benefits to the Council

- Allows the Council to make more informed decisions based on stronger evidence and thus prepare better policies
- People who live, work, play, use services, do business and manage resources within North Lanarkshire have a range of local knowledge and expertise that should be utilised to inform and influence Council decisions that impact upon them.
- If undertaken early in the process, where there is more scope to influence decisions, it can save time later on.

THE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

31. The objectives of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy are:

- **To make a better plan for North Lanarkshire**
- **To meet our statutory engagement requirements.**
- **To raise awareness of the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan amongst a broad range of stakeholders.**

- **To make it easy for stakeholders to contribute to the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan.**
- **That stakeholder's can see how their contribution has been considered and understand the reasoning behind decisions.**
- **To use a range of engagement methods.**
- **To undertake engagement in line with the [National Standards of Community Engagement](#).**

OUR COMMITMENT

32. In preparing North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan we want to take a more pro-active approach to engaging with our communities. We will do this by having a coordinated approach to how we engage and promote the plan and by exploring new engagement methods.

33. We are committed to engaging with communities in line with the 10 National Standards on Community Engagement:

- The **INVOLVEMENT** Standard
We will identify and involve the people and organisations who have an interest in the Local Development Plan.
- The **SUPPORT** Standard
We will identify and overcome any barriers to involvement.
- The **PLANNING** Standard
We will gather evidence of the needs and available resources and use this to agree the purpose, scope and timescale of the engagement and the actions to be taken.
- The **METHODS** Standard

We will agree and use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose.

- The **WORKING TOGETHER** Standard
We will agree and use clear procedures that enable the participants to work with one another efficiently and effectively.
- The **SHARING INFORMATION** Standard
We will ensure that necessary information is communicated between the participants.
- The **WORKING WITH OTHERS** Standard
We will work effectively with others with an interest in engagement.
- The **IMPROVEMENT** Standard
We will develop actively the skills, knowledge and confidence of all the participants.
- The **FEEDBACK** Standard
We will feedback the results of the engagement to the wider community and agencies affected.
- The **MONITORING and EVALUATION** Standard
We will monitor and evaluate whether the engagement achieves its purposes and meets the National Standards for Community Engagement.

WHO WILL WE ENGAGE?

34. We interact with a broad range of stakeholders with varying interests in terms of land use.

35. There are a number of stakeholders that we are required to engage with because they; are identified by legislation as a Key Agency,

because of their geographical or strategic planning association with North Lanarkshire, are an identified community group, or simply because they may be expected to have an interest in the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan.

36. These stakeholders include:

- Key Agencies;
- Public sector organisations;
- Partner Organisations;
- Special Interest & Representative Organisations
- Community & Representative Organisations
- Private Sector Organisations

37. A list of organisations under each of the stakeholder groups mentioned above is included within the **North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan Stakeholder Database** which is within the Participation Statement. Organisations on the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan Consultation Database will be notified and invited to comment during formal consultation periods for the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan.

38. In addition to the stakeholders identified above, there are a number of internal stakeholders within the Council who have an interest in or will be affected by the outcomes of the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan. Key internal stakeholders include colleagues within Chief Executive's Office, Corporate Services, Regeneration & Environmental Services, Finance & Customer Services, Housing & Social Work Services and Learning & Leisure Services. A full list of internal stakeholders is detailed within North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan Consultation Database which will be included within the Participation Statement.

39. Community Councils and Community Forums have an important role to play in the Local Development Plan process as statutory community representatives. We intend to engage with Community Councils and Community Forums at the early stages of producing

the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan (prior to the production of the Main Issues Report).

40. Gypsy/Travellers have a unique set of land use requirements which may need to be addressed through the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan. In order to engage effectively with Gypsy/Travellers extra effort will be made to identify suitable engagement methods to understand the land use requirements of this group.

41. Young People require extra effort to be made to achieve effective engagement with the planning system. Young people will live with the land use planning decisions made today and developing an awareness of the planning system and how it impacts on them will hopefully lead to active citizenship as adults. We intend to engage with Young People through the use of social media and the Council's website as well as engaging directly with Young People groups.

42. We are also committed to engaging with the broader public and a number of engagement methods will be targeted to this group. In particular we will be making extra efforts to involve anyone who would not normally engage with the planning system.

HOW AND WHEN WE WILL ENGAGE

43. The focus for engagement activity will be the lead up to and consultation on the Main Issues Report which is one of the initial key stages in the plan process. After this point the purpose of engagement shifts largely to informing stakeholders and there is limited scope for stakeholders to influence the final plan.

44. The extent to which the Council can engage is constrained by limited resources. Engagement costs money and with shrinking budgets the Council needs to prioritise how resources are used for engagement.

45. The internet will be a focus for engagement activity related to the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan as it is cost effective and

many people have access to and expect information to be available on the internet. The internet will be the hub for making submissions and accessing information on the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan throughout the process.

46. However, hard copies will still be available to read at Council offices and public libraries and submissions can still be made in writing.
47. In addition to the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan Stakeholder Database, North Lanarkshire Council has signed up to 'Gov Delivery'. This system allows us to reach customers in an as efficient and customer-friendly a way as possible. Gov Delivery enables interested parties who had signed up to the Strategic Planning Mailing List it replaces to receive emails updates on the progress of the Local Development Plan, as well as other aspects of the work of the Council's Planning Service.
48. The Participation Statement provides a list of all the engagement methods we intend to use, what stakeholders they are aimed at and at what stage of the process. These methods are grouped into those methods that are aimed at raising awareness and skills, and those methods which are to aid exploring the issues.
49. The Council will be using a wide range of engagement methods throughout the preparation of the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan. The method used will be tailored according to the purpose of the consultation (e.g. inform, consult etc) and which stakeholder it is intended for (target group or general public).
50. The Participation Statement provides a record of any media activity related to the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan. It lists any public notices, newspaper articles, blogs, newsletters or social media mention the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan we're aware of in relation to the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan.

51. The Participation Statement will be updated regularly alongside the Development Plan Scheme and will be published on the Council's website.

FEEDBACK, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

52. We are committed to providing feedback about the issues that emerge from engagement, the actions taken as a result of the views expressed, and how input affected a decision.
53. We are expecting a lot of people to have their say by making a submission as part of the planning process. For example, throughout the process to prepare the North Lanarkshire Local plan we received nearly 3,000 submissions, some of which raised multiple issues.
54. With this in mind we will consider and report on each of the issues raised in every submission it will not be possible to provide an explanation in writing to each individual on how their comments have been considered as we simply don't have the resources to do this.
55. To address this we will make sure that documents which include feedback are presented in a clear and accessible way, are easily available to the public and that, in particular, people who have made submissions know where and how access these.
56. Engaging with communities is not new for us; however, this is the first time we have prepared an engagement strategy which brings all our engagement activities together in a coordinated approach.
57. We will be focussing on regular monitoring and we therefore need to start gathering information to provide a basis for evaluation and review.
58. We will monitor and evaluate how we engage throughout the process, but in particular after the Call for Sites, Main Issues Report, Proposed Plan and at the adoption stage so that we can build on strengths and learn from aspects that don't work so well to

continually improve the engagement process throughout the preparation of the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan.

IT'S NOT A POPULARITY CONTEST!

59. Land use policies are complex. There are many different and competing interests and it is unlikely that all stakeholders will agree with each other, or the proposed solutions.
60. It is also important to note that the findings from consultation with stakeholders, although important, are only part of the evidence base upon which decisions are made.
61. It is therefore important to be clear that the outcome of engagement is not about preparing a plan that pleases the most people. It's about ensuring that **planning decisions are made taking an informed view on all, of the evidence available**.
62. If a policy does not accord with a stakeholder's view, it does not mean that his/her view has not been considered.
63. There will always be cases where differences cannot be resolved. The challenge lies in ensuring that communities are engaged in shaping the future of their area; that the basis and justification for policies, land allocations, infrastructure priorities and decisions are clear and that the trade-offs between competing and, in some cases, conflicting interests are explicit and transparent.

HOW TO CONTACT US

64. If you have any questions or comments about this document or about the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan the Development Plan Team can be contacted using the following methods:

Through our website:

www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/developmentplan

By email: ESNLLDP@northlan.gov.uk

By mail: Development Planning Team
Regeneration and Environmental Services
North Lanarkshire Council
Fleming House
2 Tryst Road
Cumbernauld
G67 1JW

OTHER SOURCES OF ADVICE OR INFORMATION

65. For more information on the Scottish Planning System refer to the Planning page on the **Scottish Government's website**:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning>
66. For more information on community engagement and the National Standards on Community Engagement refer to **Planning Advice Note 3/2010: Community Engagement** by the Scottish Government which can be downloaded from the Scottish Government website:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/08/30094454/0>
67. For more information on SP=EED – *Successful Planning equals Effective Engagement and Delivery* by Planning Aid Scotland which can be downloaded from the Planning Aid Scotland's website:
<http://www.planningaidscotland.org.uk/speed>

