



# DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME



2025



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Moray Local Development Plan Area

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## INTRODUCTION

Planning authorities in Scotland have a statutory duty to prepare a Development Plan Scheme each year which sets out the key milestones to prepare and approve new local development plans and associated policy guidance.

The Development Plan Scheme is supported by a Participation Statement which sets out the who, when and how we will consult with stakeholders. The process for preparing new local development plans in Scotland has changed. National Planning Framework 4 became operational on 13th February 2023 and new Development Planning Guidelines have been published. Guidance on Local Place Plans and Masterplan Consent Areas has also been published but guidance on Regional Spatial Strategies has been delayed.

The first key stage of preparing the new Moray Local Development Plan 2027 was met with Moray Council agreeing the Evidence Report at the meeting of Council on 24th April 2024.

The Evidence Report was subsequently submitted to Scottish Ministers and subject to the new Gatecheck procedure. Four Further Information Requests were issued by the Reporter and the Council was notified in August 2024 that no further process was required and the Reporter considered the Evidence Report to be sufficient to allow the Council to proceed with the Local Development Plan. Moray Council is the first planning authority to pass through the Gatecheck.

The timelines will continue to be reviewed and updated as work progresses to prepare the new Local Development Plan. This will involve extensive stakeholder and community engagement and the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 requires engagement with specific stakeholder groups such as young people. A detailed participation to support the Proposed Plan will be prepared during 2025.



## Moray Local Development Plan 2020

The MLDP2020 was adopted on 27th July 2020. A number of Masterplans, Supplementary Guidance and additional planning guidance have been produced to support the Plan and these can be viewed at [http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_133431.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_133431.html)

The following policy/ guidance and studies were progressed during 2024 to support delivery of the LDP2020 and NPF4;

- Mosstodloch Masterplan
- Flooding and Drainage Supplementary Guidance
- Moray Town Centre Healthchecks
- Moray Play Sufficiency Assessment
- Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy
- Natural Capital Enhancement Opportunities study
- Biodiversity Study
- Conservation Area Designation Review

Work to be progressed on policy/ guidance during 2025 to support the existing LDP, the new LDP and NPF4 includes;

- Approval following consultation of Developer Obligations Supplementary Guidance **Q1 2025/26**
- Approval following consultation of Forestry and Woodland Strategy **Q1 2025/26**
- Preparation of Open Space Strategy **Q4 2024/25 - Q2 2025/26**
- Revised carbon guidance **Q2 2025/26**
- Biodiversity guidance **Q1 2025/26**
- Biodiversity Strategy **Q2 2025/26**
- Socio economic Maximisation guidance- NPF Policy 11c)- consultation and approval **Q1 2025/26**

Work on Regional Spatial Strategy will also be progressed, seeking to incorporate a Regional Just Transition Plan to avoid duplication and reduce the number of plans being progressed.

## Moray Local Development Plan 2027

The diagram below summarises the key timelines in preparing the new LDP27 which will replace the current LDP2020.

The target date is to have new LDP's in place within 5 years of NPF4 being adopted. The target dates for preparing the Evidence Report and reporting to Council were met and the timeline for the Gatecheck has been met.



**Timescale for preparing LDP2027.**



## Participation Statement

The Council is committed to encouraging participation from as wide a range of stakeholders as possible in all Local Development Plan related activities, such as masterplans, development briefs and other guidance published throughout the lifetime of the Plan. This Participation Statement outlines how communities and stakeholders will be engaged and have the opportunity to engage, shape and inform the Local Development Plan and associated documents, in line with National Standards for Community Engagement.

The Council aims to ensure that;

- All engagement events are inclusive, open and transparent, this will be reflected in the venues we use, the documents we produce and our methods of engagement;
- Representations are fully considered and help to shape our approach and that feedback is provided to all representations received;
- We take the extra step to engage with as wide an audience as possible, reflecting the diverse nature of our community.

From the outset of the LDP process, the Council has engaged with the local community launching a Call for Ideas and a series of community engagement events across the LDP area. Comments received were collated and formed part of the Evidence Report. The opportunity for communities to prepare Local Place Plans has been advertised with around 14 groups currently expressing an interest. A series of 4 workshops with elected members were held during 2024 covering a variety of policy topics.

Key agencies such as SEPA, Historic Environment Scotland, NatureScot, Scottish Forestry, Transport Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, NHS Grampian and Scottish Water have been and will continue to be engaged at relevant stages of the process.

- A detailed Engagement Plan will be developed in 2025 to support the Proposed Plan stage.





