

ANGUS COUNCIL

ANGUS COUNCIL - 15 DECEMBER 2022

ANGUS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION PROGRAMME - 2022 UPDATE

REPORT BY ALISON SMITH DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

ABSTRACT

This report seeks approval of the updated Action Programme for the Angus Local Development Plan which details progress with the implementation of the Plan.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) Agree the Angus Local Development Plan Action Programme - 2022 Update for adoption, submission to Scottish Ministers and publication (**Appendix 1**)
- (ii) Delegate authority to the Service Leader - Planning and Sustainable Growth to make minor formatting and drafting changes if required.

2. ALIGNMENT TO ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/COUNCIL PLAN

- 2.1 The attached Action Programme update supports the implementation and delivery of the objectives, strategy, policies and proposals set out in the adopted Angus Local Development Plan (hereafter referred to as ALDP) 2016.
- 2.2 The Development Plan contributes to the priorities in the updated Angus Council Plan 2022-25 and the following local outcomes in the Angus Community Plan 2017-2030:

ECONOMY

- An inclusive and sustainable economy
- Attractive employment opportunities

PEOPLE

- Improved physical, mental and emotional health and well-being

PLACE

- An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment
- A reduced carbon footprint
- Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council is required under Section 21 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to prepare an Action Programme to set out how it intends to implement the objectives of the adopted Local Development Plan.
- 3.2 The Action Programme lists the actions established in 2016 as necessary to deliver the ALDP strategy, policies, proposals and land allocations. It identifies who (organisation or person/partners) is to carry out each action; and indicates the broad timescale to implement each action. It was initially prepared with input from a range of partners, including other Angus Council Services, key stakeholders, Scottish Government and other organisations/ delivery bodies specified in the document. The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as

amended) requires the Council to keep the Action Programme under review, and update and republish it whenever appropriate, and in any event every 2 years.

- 3.3 The ALDP was adopted on 23 September 2016. In line with legislative requirements the first Action Programme was agreed by Angus Council at their meeting of 8 December 2016 (Report 439/16 refers) and was submitted to Scottish Ministers on 21 December 2016. The 2018 update was agreed by Angus Council on 6 December 2018 and submitted to Scottish Ministers on 12 December that year (Report 381/18 refers). The 2020 update was agreed by Angus Council on 17 December 2020 and submitted to Scottish Ministers on 22 December 2020. (Report [332/20](#) refers.)

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 This 2022 Update provides a snapshot of progress and current activity towards implementing the ALDP. It had not been anticipated that this update would be required but delays to implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, associated secondary legislation and guidance has resulted in the current legislative requirements still being in force. This update has been prepared in consultation with parties identified as contributing to delivery of the actions, drawing on progress updates from landowners/ developers through regular monitoring activities (including the housing and employment land audits and development delivery monitoring).

- 4.2 The delivery of the land use and policy strategy of the Council set out in the ALDP makes a significant contribution to the local economy and the health and wellbeing of our communities. Ensuring there is adequate land for housing secures modern mainstream and affordable homes for existing and future residents, and supports the varied local economic activity generated by housing construction; land allocated for employment uses in Montrose and Brechin enables economic objectives to be realised through Tay Cities and other investment; the protection and enhancement of the Angus environment supports tourism and related sectors of the economy, as well as contributing to mitigating the effects of climate change, protecting biodiversity and long term sustainability.

- 4.3 Since the 2020 update :
- 3 further allocated housing sites have reached completion along with the site of the former swimming pool at The Mall, Montrose which opened in October 2021 as a cinema and arts centre/ café bar.
 - 19 development sites are now under construction, the majority of which are for housing, development has started at the Pitskelly employment site in Carnoustie, and progress made at Sunnyside Hospital redevelopment.
 - Several allocated or opportunity sites are now at the planning application stage, including land at Brechin, Newtyle and Carnoustie.
 - Several opportunity sites and sites identified in the plan as 'existing housing sites' (they had planning permission at the time the plan was prepared), are identified as having stalled or remaining in existing uses due to planning permission lapsing or constraints to development not being addressed.
 - The Brothock Flood Prevention Scheme in Arbroath is expected to be completed in 2022.
 - Existing employment areas in Montrose, Kirriemuir, and Forfar have seen new planning applications with some developments now under construction.
 - The Arbroath: A Place for Everyone project is nearing completion of the technical design phase, which involved significant community collaboration, and the pre-construction feasibility is underway. Construction is due to begin in 2023.
 - A number of policy work areas have been progressed further – blue/green networks, local nature conservation sites, review of infrastructure capacity (developer contributions), open space strategy and heat and energy strategy. Some policy areas require to be reviewed and taken forward as part of preparation of the next LDP – conservation area appraisals/ conservation area boundaries and town centre strategies.

- 4.4 The 2020 update indicated significant changes to the planning system and in the wider policy landscape which had implications for several of the policy actions identified in the ALDP at the time of adoption in 2016. These changes continue to be a relevant factor impacting the

implementation of the Plan. It is also recognised that the ALDP is now more than 5 years old and this has implications for its continued implementation, and the relative status of its policy content in some instances. The policies of the adopted NPF4 will have a role in informing day to day decision making on planning applications in Angus. A revised draft of NPF4 was laid in Parliament earlier this month for consideration and if approved by Parliament may be adopted by Scottish Ministers in early 2023. The development plan status of NPF4 may have the effect of 'updating' aspects of the policies of the ALDP, resulting in a more up-to-date development planning framework for Angus while the new LDP is prepared over the next few years. The Angus Development Plan Scheme 2022 approved by Council in September 2022 (Report [308/22](#) refers) sets out more fully the process for preparation of the new LDP.

- 4.5 Greater emphasis on the need to address the impacts of climate change, the drive to Net Zero by 2045 (with interim targets in 2030), the related need to protect and enhance our natural environment and embrace opportunities for clean economic growth, and the effects of the coronavirus pandemic will all shape the place Angus will become in future. This is recognised in the updated Council Plan 2022-2025.
- 4.6 As a consequence of these changes, it was set out in the 2020 update that some of the specific policy actions considered appropriate in the ALDP Action Programme (2016) would be reassessed as part of preparatory work for the new plan rather than be taken forward as previously indicated. This relates to conservation area boundary reviews/ appraisals and town centre strategies. Some of the other policy areas have already evolved and are progressing in ways which meet the action programme as well as meeting requirements of the local development plan system.
- 4.7 Since 2020 a significant collaborative project has led to the identification of blue/green networks at a settlement level. Work has now commenced on scoping a project to identify and assess the strategic blue/green network across Angus which will continue into 2023. Together these elements will inform the preparation of the next LDP with significant potential to shape a future development plan strategy.
- 4.8 The local nature conservation sites project, supported by funding from NatureScot, considers sites valued for geodiversity and biodiversity. Geodiversity site surveys were well underway but stalled in 2020 due to lockdown and will restart in 2023. The biodiversity site surveys are now complete, and assessment of them is almost concluded. It is proposed that a report will be brought before Council and these sites will be identified in the new LDP.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Any costs for printing associated with the publication and submission of the Action Programme 2022 update will be met from the existing Planning & Sustainable Growth budget. However, the Scottish Government has confirmed the requirement of the Act to send 'two copies' can be substituted by sending the document by email. There is also a requirement to place a copy in each public library.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Risks

- 6.1 The risk to the Council of not approving the Angus Local Development Plan Action Programme 2022 update is that Angus Council will fail to comply with a legislative/legal requirement. In addition, this could affect progress in implementing and delivering the Angus LDP strategy, policies, proposals and land allocations.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 A screening only EIA has been undertaken and is available as Appendix 2 to this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Angus Local Development Plan Action Programme – 2022 Update
Appendix 2: Equality Impact/ Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form