

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET: 18 MARCH 2009

EAST AYRSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME

Report by Depute Chief Executive / Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Council for information and approval, a suggested Development Plan Scheme detailing the anticipated timetable and participation procedures that it is proposed should be put into place regarding the preparation of a new Local Development Plan for East Ayrshire under the provisions of the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Section 20B of the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 stipulates that each planning authority must prepare a Development Plan Scheme on, at least, an annual basis, setting out the authority's programme for preparing and reviewing their Strategic Development Plan or Local Development Plan and outlining what is likely to be involved at each stage of the plan preparation process. Under the new system, there is no requirement for East Ayrshire Council to prepare a Strategic Development Plan, the Council being required only to prepare a Local Development Plan which will, on adoption, replace the current development plan for the area. The Development Plan Scheme must include a Participation Statement stating when, how and with whom consultation on the local development plan will take place and the authority's proposals for public involvement in the plan preparation process. The scheme also is required to contain a timetable specifying the month the authority proposes to publish the main issues report to be prepared in connection with the Local Development Plan, the month in which the Local Development Plan itself will be published and the month when the plan will be submitted to Scottish Ministers. After adopting the Scheme, the Act requires the authority to publish it, including electronically, to send two copies of the document to the Scottish Ministers and to place copies in public libraries.
- 2.2 Planning Circular 1: 2009: Development Planning advises that, in addition to the above, authorities may also usefully choose to include other information in their Development Plan Schemes, including the current components of the statutory development plan and their programme for preparing and adopting supplementary planning guidance. Scottish Ministers also expect Participation Statements to contain a range of innovative techniques and activities for consulting stakeholders, tailored to local circumstances and the issues being dealt with in the plan.

- 2.3 The proposed new local development plan is required to set out the Council's main planning policies and proposals for a 10 year period following the date of its adoption. Adoption is anticipated in 2013, so the local development plan would cover the period to 2023. The local development plan is also required to provide a broad indication of the scale and location of growth in East Ayrshire up to 20 years from the date of adoption ie up to the year 2033. The time horizon for the new plan therefore extends well beyond current time horizons for both the local plan alteration and the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan which provides the strategic planning policy framework for Ayrshire to 2025. It is anticipated that with an expanded time horizon, the new local development plan will require to be substantially more strategic in nature than the local plan alteration which is currently under preparation. While the detailed format and content of the new local development plan has not yet been determined, it is anticipated that the new plan will be a concise document comprising a visionary statement, proposals maps, an associated action plan and detailed supplementary planning guidance. In this regard, it is also anticipated that detailed development management policies will be presented as supplementary planning guidance in the new plan.
- 2.4 As stated in paragraph 3.1 below, the East Ayrshire Opencast Coal Subject Plan which was adopted in March 2003, forms part of the Development Plan for East Ayrshire. It is proposed that opencast coal extraction should be included as an integral part of the proposed new local development plan for East Ayrshire, with detailed opencast coal related policies being incorporated into the plan as supplementary planning guidance.
- 2.5 The Council is required to publish its first Development Plan Scheme by 31 March 2009.

3 EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROGRAMME

- 3.1 The development plan for East Ayrshire currently comprises the following:
- (i) the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan – approved November 2007:
 - (ii) the East Ayrshire Local Plan – adopted April 2003: and
 - (iii) the East Ayrshire Opencast Coal Subject Plan –adopted March 2003
- 3.2 The Council is currently in the process of producing an Alteration to the East Ayrshire Local Plan, work on which started in May 2004. The plan is currently at a finalised draft stage and a report detailing the formal objections received in respect of the plan, together with a suggested Council response to each of the representations made, was presented to the Council for consideration on 26 February 2009. A Schedule of Modifications that it is recommended the Council should make to the local plan was also presented to the same meeting for approval. The modifications to the plan were advertised for objection in early March 2009, with a six week period being set aside for any objections to be lodged with the Council for consideration. Objectors to the finalised version of the document were also informed as to how the Council had viewed their representations at the same time. Once the objection period is over and the scale of unresolved objections has been ascertained, the Directorate for Planning and

Environmental Appeals will be contacted to arrange an examination into these objections under the new arrangements. It is expected that, in practical terms and following informal discussions with the Directorate, an examination of the unresolved objections is not likely to start until September / October 2009.

- 3.3 Work on the new Local Development Plan for the area will not be able to be commenced until January 2010. It is accepted, however that some preliminary background work relating to the preparation of the Monitoring Statement and the Main Issues Report could well be commenced prior to that date, should the opportunity arise. The Development Plan Scheme and timetable which forms the subject of this submission has been devised on this contention.

4 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TIMETABLE AND PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

- 4.1 As stated in paragraph 3.3 above, it is not anticipated that work will be formally commenced on the new Local Development Plan for East Ayrshire until January 2010. It is proposed that the Main Issues Report and the Monitoring Statement, which requires to be produced as a statutory part of the plan preparation process, will be published by the Council in September 2010. It is anticipated that the Proposed Plan will be submitted to Scottish Ministers in April 2012 with a view to having the Proposed Plan as Modified adopted by the Council in May 2013.
- 4.2 In line with the provisions of the Planning etc Act and the Circular 1: 2009, it is the intention of the Council that comprehensive engagement with local communities and all other parties, statutory and non-statutory organisations etc with an interest in the future development of East Ayrshire should be undertaken at each appropriate stage of the local development plan preparation process. As well as consulting and engaging formally with the Scottish Ministers, the Health and Safety Executive and all adjoining Planning Authorities, it is proposed to formally engage with the key agencies of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Water and NHS Ayrshire and Arran at the issues formulation stage of the plan preparation process, the Main Issues Report stage and the Proposed Plan stage. A wide range of other stakeholders and national and local organisations will also be consulted and engaged in the plan preparation process, particularly at the Main Issues Report and Proposed Plan stages of plan production.
- 4.3 In addition to the above, it is intended that a series of informal seminars / discussions with Community Council representatives and Residents Panel Focus Groups should be arranged to identify planning issues of particular concern within the particular areas they represent. It is also proposed that series of 'Planning for Real' workshops / open days will be arranged by the Council to facilitate the engagement of the general public and local community groups at this stage of the local plan development process. It is intended that the proposed workshops / open days will be widely advertised in the local press, on the Council's web site and in all local community libraries. Local schools will also be specifically targeted with a view to engaging the younger members of the community in the plan making process and fliers for the events will also be placed in shops, supermarkets and other venues used on a regular basis by members of the public. Local community groups will be specifically invited to these events in writing.

4.4 The East Ayrshire Development Plan Scheme, which encapsulates and details the Local Development Plan Timetable and Participation Statement outlined in the above paragraphs, is attached as Annex 1 to this report.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 With the exception of the costs involved in publicising the Development Plan Scheme in the local press, which can be met from the current departmental revenue budget, there are no other financial costs associated with this particular report.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The publication of the Development Plan Scheme is, in itself, a legal requirement of the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006. There are no other legal implications arising directly from this report.

7 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no policy implications arising directly from this report.

8 COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no Community Plan implications arising directly from this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Should the Council not agree to approve the suggested Development Plan Scheme for publication, it would not be meeting its statutory obligations as prescribed by the Scottish Ministers.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that Cabinet agrees:

- (i) to approve the Development Plan Scheme for publication;
- (ii) to authorise the Head of Planning and Economic Development to publicise the Development Plan Scheme before the end of March 2009, as required by statute; and

- (iii) agree, that due to the timescales involved, i.e. the requirement to publish its first Development Plan Scheme by 31 March 2009, to implement this decision prior to any consideration by the Governance and Scrutiny Committee under the call-in process as to delay the process would prevent a final decision being made before the required date.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive / Executive Director of Corporate Support

16 February 2009 (JL/JL)

LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex 1: East Ayrshire Local Development Plan: Development Plan Scheme

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Implementation Officer: Alan Neish, Head of Planning and Economic Development (01563) 576767.

ANNEX 1

EAST AYRSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Section 20B of the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 stipulates that each planning authority must prepare a Development Plan Scheme on, at least, an annual basis, setting out the authority's programme for preparing and reviewing their Strategic Development Plan or Local Development Plan and outlining what is likely to be involved at each stage of the plan preparation process. Under the new planning system, there is no requirement for East Ayrshire Council to prepare a Strategic Development Plan, the Council being required only to prepare a Local Development Plan which will, on adoption, replace the current development plan for the area. The Development Plan Scheme must include a Participation Statement stating when, how and with whom consultation on the local development plan will take place and the authority's proposals for public involvement in the plan preparation process. The scheme also is required to contain a timetable specifying the month the authority proposes to publish the main issues report to be prepared in connection with the Local Development Plan, the month in which the Local Development Plan itself will be published and the month when the plan will be submitted to Scottish Ministers. After adopting the Scheme, the Act requires the authority to publish it, including electronically, to send two copies of the document to the Scottish Ministers and to place copies in public libraries.

1.2 Planning Circular1: 2009: Development Planning advises that, in addition to the above, authorities may also usefully choose to include other information in their Development Plan Schemes, including the current components of the statutory development plan and their programme for preparing and adopting supplementary planning guidance. Scottish Ministers also expect Participation Statements to contain a range of innovative techniques and activities for consulting stakeholders, tailored to local circumstances and the issues being dealt with in the plan.

1.3 The Council is required to publish its first Development Plan Scheme by 31 March 2009.

2 EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROGRAMME

2.1 The development plan for East Ayrshire currently comprises the following:

- (i) the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan – approved November 2007:
- (ii) the East Ayrshire Local Plan – adopted April 2003: and
- (iii) the East Ayrshire Opencast Coal Subject Plan – adopted March 2003

2.2 The Council is currently in the process of producing an Alteration to the East Ayrshire Local Plan, work on which started in May 2004. The plan is currently at a finalised draft stage and a report detailing the formal objections received in respect of the plan, together with a suggested Council response to each of the representations made, was presented to the Council for consideration on 26 February 2009. A Schedule of Modifications that it is recommended the Council should make to the local plan was also presented to the same meeting for approval. The modifications to the plan were advertised for objection in early March 2009, with a six week period being set aside for any objections to be lodged with the Council for consideration. Objectors to the finalised version of the document were also informed as to how the Council viewed their representations at the same time. Once the objection period is over and the scale of unresolved objections has been ascertained, the Scottish Government's Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals will be formally contacted to arrange an examination into these objections under the new arrangements. It is expected that, in practical terms and following informal discussions with the Directorate, an examination of the unresolved objections is not likely to take place until September / October 2009.

2.3 In addition to the above mentioned documents, the Council is currently in the process of finalising a series of Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to Developer Contributions, Affordable Housing and Master Planning, these documents being produced in the context of, and in support of, the Alteration to the East Ayrshire Local Plan. Supplementary Planning Advice on Windfarm Developments on an Ayrshire-wide basis is also currently being prepared jointly by East, North and South Ayrshire Councils under the auspices of the Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit.

2.4 Bearing in mind the Council's current commitment to progressing the Alteration to the East Ayrshire Local Plan to adoption and the limited staff resources available to implement this process, the Council will not be in a position to commence work on any new Local Development Plan for East Ayrshire until after any examination into the objections to the current local plan alteration has been concluded. Consequently, the Council would contend that, in purely practical terms, work on the new Local Development Plan for the area will not be able to be commenced until January 2010. It is accepted, however that some preliminary background work relating to the preparation of the Monitoring Statement and the Main Issues Report could well be commenced prior to that date, should the opportunity arise. The Development Plan Scheme and the Local Development Plan Timetable and Participation Statement which forms the subject of this submission have been devised on this contention.

2.5 The proposed new local development plan is required to set out the Council's main planning policies and proposals for a 10 year period following the date of its adoption. Adoption is anticipated in 2013, so the local development plan would cover the period to 2023. It is also required to provide a broad indication of the scale and location of growth in East Ayrshire up to 20 years from the date of adoption ie up to the year 2033. The time horizon for the new plan therefore extends well beyond current time horizons for both the local plan alteration and the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan which provides the strategic planning policy framework for Ayrshire to 2025. It is anticipated that with an expanded time horizon, the new local development plan will require to be substantially more strategic in nature than the local plan alteration which is currently under preparation. While the detailed format and content of the new local development plan has not yet been determined, it is anticipated that the new plan will be a concise document comprising a visionary statement,

proposals maps, an associated action plan and detailed supplementary planning guidance. In this regard, it is also anticipated that detailed development management policies will be presented as supplementary planning guidance in the new plan.

3 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TIMETABLE

3.1 Table 1 below details the various stages that require to be undertaken in the preparation of the Proposed Local Development Plan for East Ayrshire and sets out a basic timetable for the production of the plan. The information contained in the Table is based on and reflects the Typical Timings detailed in Figure 2 of the Circular 1: 2009.

TABLE 1: EAST AYRSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: TIMETABLE

Step No	Step in Plan Preparation Process	Start	Completion
1	Preparation of Development Plan Scheme	February 2009	March 2009
2	Publication of Development Plan Scheme		March 2009
3	Preparation of Monitoring Statement	April 2009	April 2010
4	Preparation of Main Issues Report	April 2009	August 2010
5	Publication of Main Issues Report and Monitoring Statement		September 2010
6	Consultation on Main Issues Report and Monitoring Statement	September 2010	October 2010
7	Consideration of Representations received on Main Issues Report and Monitoring Statement	November 2010	May 2011
8	Preparation of Proposed Plan and Action Programme	November 2010	May 2011
9	Presentation of Proposed Plan and Action Programme to Council		June 2011
10	Proposed Plan and Action Programme Printed and Published		August 2011
11	Consultation on Proposed Plan and Action Programme	August 2011	September 2011
12	Notification of Neighbours affected by proposals in the Proposed Plan and Action Programme	August 2011	September 2011
13	Consideration of Representations received on Proposed Plan and Action Programme	October 2011	February 2012
14	Preparation of Responses to Persons making Representations on Proposed Plan and Action Programme	October 2011	February 2012
15	Preparation of Report of Conformity with Participation Statement	October 2011	February 2012
16	Presentation of Representations on Proposed Plan and Action Programme and Report of		March 2012

	Conformity with Participation Statement to Council		
17	Representations on Proposed Plan and Action Programme and Report of Conformity with Participation Statement Printed and Published		April 2012
18	Proposed Plan, Action Programme, Statement of Conformity with Participation Statement and Report on Representations Received submitted to Scottish Ministers		April 2012
19	Submission of the Proposed Plan to Scottish Ministers Publicised		April 2012
20	Examination of the Proposed Plan	May 2012	December 2012
21	Reporter's Examination Report Published and Submitted to Planning Authority		December 2012
22	Planning Authority's Consideration of Reporter's Examination Report and Preparation of Modifications, Proposed Plan as Modified and Statement of Explanation for the Council not accepting any of the Reporter's Recommendations (if required)	December 2012	April 2013
23	Publication of any Modifications and the Proposed Plan as Modified by the Planning Authority		April 2013
24	Copies of the Proposed Plan as Modified sent to Scottish Ministers		April 2013
25	Proposed Plan as Modified Adopted by the Planning Authority		May 2013
26	Action Programme Published by the Planning Authority		August 2013

3.2 In summary, it is proposed that the Main Issues Report and the Monitoring Statement will be published by the Council in September 2010. It is anticipated that the Proposed Plan will be submitted to Scottish Ministers in April 2012 with a view to having the Proposed Plan as Modified adopted by the Council in May 2013.

4 PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

Who to Engage in the Plan Preparation Process

4.1 It is the intention of the Council that comprehensive engagement with local communities and all other parties, statutory and non-statutory organisations etc with an interest in the future development of East Ayrshire should be undertaken at each appropriate stage of the local development plan preparation process. In this regard it is proposed that public engagement will be undertaken with the following bodies at the following stages of the plan production.

(i) Preparation of Main Issues Report

4.2 It is considered that all interested parties and stakeholders should be engaged in the plan preparation process and be given an opportunity to present to the Council those particular issues that they feel should be addressed in the new local development plan for the area. In this regard, it is proposed that an advert should be placed in all local newspapers circulating within East Ayrshire and on the Council's web site, inviting interested parties to inform the Council of those particular issues and broad areas of concern which they consider should be taken into account in the preparation of the plan. All Council Executive Directors and Heads of Department, together with all Community Councils within the local authority area will also be contacted individually for their views in this regard. The five area based Residents Panel Focus Groups established throughout the local authority area will also be invited to identify those issues which they consider to be relevant to their particular areas.

4.3 In line with the provisions of Section 17(4) of the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006, the Council will also formally seek the views of the following bodies in the compilation of the main issues report:

- the Scottish Ministers;
- the Health and Safety Executive;
- all adjoining Planning Authorities, ie South Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, South Lanarkshire Council and East Renfrewshire Council.

4.4 It is also proposed to consult directly with the Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Water and NHS Ayrshire and Arran at this stage of the plan preparation process.

4.5 As a means of obtaining the views of the wider general public, service providers and other statutory and non-statutory bodies regarding which particular issues should be addressed in the Proposed Plan it is proposed that, in addition to the specific organisations detailed above, all other persons and bodies that made representation on / objections to either the Consultative Draft or the Finalised Draft versions of the Alteration to the East Ayrshire Local Plan should also be invited to contribute to the identification of issues to be addressed in the document. It is considered that it would also be beneficial to engage those individuals, bodies and organisations that made representations on the draft versions of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan, at this stage of the plan preparation process. Those respondents who made representations relating specifically to East Ayrshire or to issues of an Ayrshire-wide nature will be particularly targeted in this regard.

(ii) Consultation and Community Engagement on Main Issues Report and Monitoring Statement

4.6 As with the stage of identifying issues to be addressed in the local development plan, it is intended that the Council will formally seek the views of the following bodies on the Main Issues Report and its associated Monitoring Statement, once these have been agreed for publication by the Council,

- the Scottish Ministers;
- the Health and Safety Executive;
- all adjoining Planning Authorities, ie South Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, South Lanarkshire Council and East Renfrewshire Council.

4.7 In addition, it is proposed to formally engage with the following key agencies in respect of the Main Issues Report and Monitoring Statement:

- Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
- Scottish Natural Heritage;
- Scottish Water;and
- NHS Ayrshire and Arran;

as well the following bodies and organisations:

- Historic Scotland;
- Transport Scotland;
- the Forestry Commission;
- Communities Scotland;
- all Community Councils in the authority area;
- the Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit;
- all Council Executive Directors and Heads of Department; and
- the Residents Panel Focus Groups established throughout the area

4.8 In addition to the above, the Council would also intend to specifically engage all those other persons, bodies and organisations that responded or made representation to the authority in respect of the previous, issue formulation stage of the plan production.

(iii) Consultation and Community Engagement on Proposed Plan and Action Programme

4.9 Once prepared by the Council, it is intended that the Proposed Plan and its accompanying Action Programme will be publicised in the Edinburgh Gazette, in the local press and on the Council's web site and that all of the bodies and organisations previously consulted on the Main Issues Report and Monitoring Report, as described above, will once again be formally consulted on both documents and invited to engage in this stage of the plan preparation process. In addition, consultation and engagement will also take place with all relevant service providers and statutory undertakers and with a wide range of national and local organisations having a demonstrated interest in the statutory development planning process.

4.10 In cases where a proposal for development of a specific site is likely to have a significant effect on the use or amenity of that site or of neighbouring land, formal notification of the preparation of the plan will also be given, in terms of Regulation 14(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008, to the owner, lessee or occupier of any premises situated on that site or to the owner, lessee or occupier of any premises situated on the neighbouring land concerned.

How Engagement will be Effectuated

(i) Preparation of Main Issues Report

4.11 As stated in Paragraph 4.2 above, it is proposed that an advert should be placed in all local newspapers circulating within East Ayrshire and on the Council's web site, inviting interested parties to inform the Council of those particular issues and broad areas of concern which they consider should be taken into account in the preparation of the local development plan. At the same time, the Council will formally seek the views of those bodies and organisations detailed in paragraphs 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 to identify those issues which they feel should be addressed in the plan. At a more local level, it is proposed that a series of informal seminars / discussions with Community Council representatives and Residents Panel Focus Groups should be arranged to identify planning issues of particular concern within the particular areas they represent.

(ii) Consultation and Community Engagement on Main Issues Report and Monitoring Statement

4.12 It is intended that those members of the public and other interested parties, statutory and non-statutory organisations etc who previously made representations to the Council in connection with the identification of issues for consideration in the preparation of the Main Issues Report will be consulted formally on the approved version of the document and the approved Monitoring Report. Copies of the Main Issues Report and the Monitoring Statement will also be placed in all local community libraries and in the following Council Offices for information and consultation purposes:

(i) The Planning and Economic Development Division,
East Ayrshire Council,
6 Croft Street,
Kilmarnock
KA1 1JB

(ii) The Planning and Economic Development Division,
East Ayrshire Council,
Council Offices,
Lugar,
KA18 3JQ

(iii) East Ayrshire Council Headquarters,
London Road,
Kilmarnock,
KA3 7BU

4.13 Both the Main Issues Report and the Monitoring Report will also be placed on the Council's web site and arrangements made for representations on the documents to be submitted to the Council electronically.

4.14 It is proposed that series of five 'Planning for Real' workshops / open days will be arranged by the Council to facilitate the engagement of the general public and local community groups at this stage of the local plan development process, with a workshop / open day being held in Kilmarnock, and one in each of the four broad corridors comprising East Ayrshire ie the Northern area, the Irvine Valley area, the Cumnock area and the Doon Valley area. It is intended that the proposed workshops / open days will be widely advertised in the local press, on the Council's web site and in all local community libraries. Local schools will also be specifically targeted with a view to engaging the younger members of the community in the plan making process and fliers for the events will also be placed in shops, supermarkets and other venues used on a regular basis by members of the public. Local community groups will be specifically invited to these events in writing.

(iii) Consultation and Community Engagement on Proposed Plan and Action Programme

4.15 As with the Main Issues Report and the Monitoring Statement, copies of the Proposed Plan and Action Programme will be placed in all local community libraries and in the three Council Offices detailed in paragraph 4.12 above for information and consultation purposes and both documents will also be placed on the Council's web site, with arrangements being made for representations on the documents to be submitted to the Council electronically. As stated in paragraph 4.8 above, notice of the preparation of the plan will be placed in the Edinburgh Gazette and all local newspapers circulating within East Ayrshire, as well as on the Council's web site, inviting representations on the contents of the documents.

4.16 As at the Main Issues and Monitoring Statement stage of plan production, it is proposed that a series of five 'Planning for Real' workshops / open days will be arranged by the Council to facilitate the engagement of the general public and local community groups in the preparation and content of the Proposed Plan, with a workshop / open day being held in Kilmarnock, and one in each of the four broad corridors comprising East Ayrshire ie the Northern area, the Irvine Valley area, the Cumnock area and the Doon Valley area. It is intended that the proposed workshops / open days will be widely advertised in the local press, on the Council's web site and in all local community libraries. Those persons, local groups and organisations previously attending the workshops / open days arranged at the previous Main Issues Report Stage will be specifically invited to attend these events. Local schools will once again be targeted with a view to engaging the younger members of the community in the plan making process and fliers for the events will also be placed in shops, supermarkets and other venues used on a regular basis by members of the public. As at the previous stage, local Community Councils and other community groups will be provided with a written invitation to these events.

Note: It is proposed that at each stage of the plan preparation process, a general invitation will be extended to all interested parties to register with the Planning and Economic Development Division if they wish to be kept informed of the progress of the local development plan at each of the various stages of its production. All those persons expressing such an interest will automatically be informed in writing of the progress of the plan and will receive notification and an invitation to any of the public consultation events to be arranged in respect of the production of the document.