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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>18 January 2024</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Director, Environment &amp; Regeneration</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>E+R/24/01/03/SJ/DH</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Daniel Henderson</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712420</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement - Local Development Plan</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of the report is to seek approval of the draft Development Plan Scheme (DPS) and Participation Statement (PS) for the new Local Development Plan.
- 1.3 A Development Plan Scheme sets out how the next Local Development Plan will be prepared. It also sets a timeline for the delivery of the plan, and includes details of how the general public and consultees can get involved in the Planning process.
- 1.4 The new Local Development Plan will be adopted by March 2026.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee are asked to note the contents of this report and approve the draft Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement.

**Stuart Jamieson**  
**Director, Environment & Regeneration**

### **3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 3.1 The Local Development Plan sets out the strategy, policies and proposals for the use of land and buildings within Inverclyde. It is used to determine planning applications and provide advice on development proposals.
- 3.2 The current Local Development Plan, which was adopted by Inverclyde Council on the 26 August 2019, includes a range of policies and development sites, which together provide the context for determining planning permission in Inverclyde.
- 3.3 The adopted Local Development Plan is valid for five years until August 2024, however the new Local Development Plan, forming part of the Council's Development Plan, will be valid for 10 years.
- 3.4 The LDP is being prepared under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. This legislation adjusts the form and content, and the processes for preparing the Local Development Plan, from early engagement through to the examination and adoption.
- 3.5 In preparing the new LDP, the Council is required to take into account National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), the Scottish Government's strategy for Scotland's long term spatial development. As well as the national planning policies, the Plan incorporates the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the area and any Local Place Plans (LPP) which may have been prepared, although the RSS and LPPs do not form part of the statutory development plan.
- 3.6 The Development Plan Scheme has been prepared to outline the timetable for the Local Development Plan along with a Participation Statement providing details of how people will be engaged as part of the process for preparing it.
- 3.7 Everyone within Inverclyde with an interest in planning issues will be encouraged to get involved in the preparation of the new Local Development Plan. Participation is important as it will help prepare a Plan that addresses the needs, aspirations and concerns of those who live, work, visit and invest in the area.
- 3.8 Planning legislation sets out requirements for community engagement which have been enhanced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 through the introduction of local place plans, and the specific provisions to involve previously under-represented groups such as children and young people, gypsy/travellers and people with disabilities.
- 3.9 Engagement should be early, collaborative, meaningful and proportionate, providing for a diverse range of people to express their views in different ways. Scottish Government Guidance on Effective Community Engagement in Local Development Planning will also inform this process.
- 3.10 At various stages of the preparation of the new LDP, involvement will be sought from: (not an exhaustive list)
  - Individual members of the public
  - Community Councils
  - Community Bodies
  - Other Community & Interest Groups
  - Locality Partnerships
  - Elected Members
  - Council Services
  - Development Industry

- Landowners
- Key Agencies & Scottish Government
- Third Sector Organisations
- Business and Commercial Sectors
- Children & Young People

3.11 Consultees will be provided with various options to provide comments, views and suggestions through the consultation process. This will include utilisation of mailing lists, social media, the Council's website, adverts, videos and public events.

3.12 Consultation will be targeted for specific groups which are considered to be under represented groups and those with protected characteristics. This shall include disabled people, children and young people, BAME people and representative organisations, gypsies and travellers etc.

#### 4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 The proposed Development Plan Scheme (DPS) shall outline the delivery of the Local Development Plan in six key stages in line with Scottish Government guidance.

Key Stage	Date	Actions
Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement	Q4 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee approval of draft DPS &amp; PS</li> <li>• Obtain consent to go out to public consultation on DPS &amp; PS</li> <li>• Public consultation on DPS &amp; PS</li> <li>• Committee approval of finalised DPS &amp; PS</li> <li>• Invitation to prepare Local Place Plans</li> </ul>
Evidence Report	Q4 2023/24 – Q3 2024/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare draft Evidence Report including engagement and consultation.</li> <li>• SEA scoping/consultation</li> </ul>
Gate Check	Q4 2024/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee Presentation</li> <li>• Publish Evidence Report and submit to Scottish Ministers.</li> <li>• Reporter considers whether the evidence is 'sufficient' to proceed.</li> </ul>
Proposed Plan	Q1 2025/26 – Q3 2025/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call for ideas/sites, consider strategy options, carry out assessments.</li> <li>• Prepare Proposed Plan.</li> <li>• Prepare SEA Environment Report</li> <li>• Committee Presentation</li> <li>• Consult on Proposed Plan</li> <li>• Modify Plan</li> <li>• Committee Presentation</li> <li>• Report on Responses</li> <li>• Submit to Scottish Ministers</li> </ul>
Examination	Q4 2025/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporter considers unresolved issues at Examination and prepares</li> <li>• Report with recommendations</li> </ul>
Adoption and Delivery	Q4 2025/26 – Q1 2026/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee</li> <li>• Report receipt of Examination Report</li> <li>• Modify Plan and adopt.</li> <li>• Publish Delivery Programme</li> </ul>

4.2 The Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement will be updated annually with information on how the preparation of the next Plan is progressing and how to get involved in its preparation.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Financial	X	
Legal/Risk	X	
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)	X	
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing	X	
Environmental & Sustainability	X	
Data Protection		X

### 5.2 Finance

One off Costs

<b>Cost Centre</b>	<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>Budget Years</b>	<b>Proposed Spend this Report</b>	<b>Virement From</b>	<b>Other Comments</b>
N/A					External consultants to be appointed to assist in evidence gathering process, subject to open tender.

Annually Recurring Costs / (Savings)

<b>Cost Centre</b>	<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>With Effect from</b>	<b>Annual Net Impact</b>	<b>Virement From (If Applicable)</b>	<b>Other Comments</b>
N/A					

### 5.3 Legal/Risk

Further to an external audit, the delivery and adoption of the new Local Development Plan has an agreed implementation of Q4 2025/26. Failure to adhere to may present legal/regulatory risk and reputational risk to the Council.

### 5.4 Human Resources

N/A

## 5.5 Strategic

The Local Development Plan will form part of the Council's Development Plan to determine planning applications and provide advice on development proposals. The document is of critical importance to the Council.

## 5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

### (a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

X	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

### (b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

X	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

### (c) Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

X	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

## 5.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Once the new Local Development Plan has been adopted by the Council, this will set policy in relation to energy performance and sustainability factors for any development as part of the planning process. This will coincide with national planning policy as stipulated with National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). The plan will therefore be of major significance to environmental and sustainability objectives locally and nationally for the built environment.

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

X	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

## 5.8 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

## 6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 None.

## 7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.