



Locality Planning Public Consultation

February-March 2026

You Said, We Did – Response from the Locality Planning Team

North Locality Plan

No.	You Said	We Did
1.	Opposition to Net Zero Focus, viewing it as the primary driver behind the issue being consulted on	No change to Plan – Achievement of Net Zero is Government policy and has to be reflected in Locality Plans. Net zero is not the primary driver of the North Locality Plan
2.	Graffiti is unpleasant to see in many areas, with a view that organised street art such as Nuart is of a higher standard	Plan updated to reflect feedback – We accept the strong views of respondents and reflected in the Plan preference for street art such as Nuart and murals

3.	Clearer definition of the term “ <i>living in poverty</i> ”	No change to Plan – Living in Poverty is generally defined in the UK as having a household income below 60% of the median income in a given year. In 2025, this was a household income less than £20,977 (ONS). Poverty impacts daily life through inability to afford nutritious food, reliance on food banks, and exclusion from social, school, or leisure activities. People living in poverty experience inequalities in income, access to services, and suffer health inequalities leading to lower life expectancy
4.	Use funding appropriately to achieve sustainable outcomes	No change to Plan – Delivery of Locality Plans requires Community Planning Partners, third sector partners, businesses, faith groups, and communities to work together to achieve positive and sustainable outcomes for people and the areas they live in. We do this as we recognise that budgets are significantly lower in real terms than they have been in previous years, and through collaboration we can make effective use of resource and provide best value for money
5.	Concern was noted that many people lack budgeting skills to manage the money they have	No change to Plan – Some people do struggle with financial planning and budgeting. Universal support is provided through services such as the Council’s Financial Inclusion Team and Citizens Advice Bureau. The North Locality Plan aims to

		augment these universal services by providing additional support through skills building workshops, intergenerational learning opportunities, and the Cash First scheme
6.	Questions are raised about why the proposal applies only to Northfields.	No change to Plan – The wider Northfield area is a priority neighbourhood in Aberdeen City, based on higher levels of need, poverty, and health inequalities. As such, a number of actions in the Plan target its focus and resources to these communities to address disparities and inequalities in local services, assets, and outcomes
7.	Respondents indicate they do not understand what is being proposed on Cash First programme	Link to Cash First programme added to the Plan , with detail on aims and objectives, videos and case studies on how it has helped people living in poverty
8.	Uncertainty is expressed about how access to community-grown food would work	Clarity added to Plan – Access would be through programmes such as Grow Well Choices, or through supporting the work of a community garden
9.	Views that community conversations should involve only local residents, with an expectation that people new to Aberdeen integrate and that people born and raised locally should be prioritised.	No change to Plan: Respectfully we don't accept this. Locality Plans are statutory documents and we have an obligation to adhere to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010

10.	Doubts about the likely success and practicality of proposed initiatives, including concerns about outdoor gyms being unsuitable for the local climate and scepticism about new ideas more generally	No change to Plan: This action derived from a community idea recognising the importance of having good outdoor facilities which benefits health and wellbeing, as well as providing a safe and welcoming place for young people. Evidence from countries with similar, on indeed harsher climates than Aberdeen, has shown that outdoor gyms can be beneficial to community health and wellbeing. More information on outdoor gyms can be found here
11.	Concerns about participation in forums where the background of attendees is unclear, references to a predominance of men, and the need to prioritise safety for all participants	No change to Plan: Community safety will be a major priority when setting up forums to facilitate community conversations between New Scots, asylum seekers, refugees and local people – this could take the form of meetings, cultural exchanges, learning opportunities, food markets, or sharing music. We will sincerely believe that meeting new arrivals to the city will build understanding, respect, and empathy on all sides
12.	Uncertainty about what is meant by the term “maximise use” of outdoor space	No change to Plan: Simply means look for every opportunity to use outdoor and greenspaces for community, sport and leisure, food growing, and health and wellbeing reasons. There are multiple health benefits to being outside and growing evidence that using greenspace for social prescribing improves mental wellbeing

13.	The view that there is not a shortage of outdoor or open spaces, with reference to existing open areas in Aberdeen and the surrounding area	No change to Plan: Aberdeen does indeed have excellent greenspaces and it is for this reason we want to protect and make best possible use of these natural assets
14.	Concern that development on existing parks and natural areas has reduced available open space, with specific reference to sites such as the beach park and St Fittick's Park in Torry	No change to Plan: the sites referred to in the comments are not in the North Locality, and out with the remit of the North Locality Plan. Similar concerns are being addressed via our response to public consultations on Central and South Locality Plans
15.	Involving community service workers in activities as a way for them to give back to the community	No change to Plan: There is action within the Plan is to explore this with the Health and Social Care Partnership's Community Justice Team
16.	Define what is meant by art in greenspaces	Plan updated with definition of art in greenspaces: Includes sculptures, murals, crafts, woodwork, art made from natural materials such as hedges or flowers. Art which is thought provoking and sympathetic to its natural surroundings can increase learning and understanding, and improve mental wellbeing
17.	Investment should focus on the needs of the majority rather than the most vocal groups, using a pragmatic and fair approach. It was noted that while disability access to play parks is important, making every park fully accessible may not be cost effective	No change to Plan: Locality Plans are statutory documents and are required to adhere to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010, of which Disability is a protected characteristic. With an ageing population, Locality Plans recognise that

		disabled and easy access to common and greenspaces will become essential in future years
18.	The view that it is not the State's responsibility to help every individual and that the majority of the public are seen as capable of helping themselves. Risks of creating a "nanny state."	No change to Plan: The Plan makes it clear that all residents will be entitled to access universal services such as health services, libraries, recycling centres, and community centres. However some neighbourhoods and groups will receive additional focus and support as they're experiencing greater levels of need, poverty, and inequalities. This approach is called Proportionate Universalism and it underpins the new Locality Plans and Local Outcome Improvement Plan
19.	Increased support for older people, including day centres and home-care services, and recognition of an ageing population. Requests also included support groups for neurodivergent adults	No change to Plan: Provision of day centres and home care services rests with social care providers and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership. The North Locality Plan has actions which will support neurodivergent adults such as easier access to greenspaces, employability support, more chair based exercise classes, and creating more opportunities for Additional Support Need family members to participate and learn to become independent
20.	Concerns about the condition of roads, including potholes and maintenance, and the impact on safety, active travel, and general accessibility	No change to Plan: Out with the remit of Locality Planning. Responsibility for roads rests with Aberdeen City Council

21.	Emphasis on maintaining existing facilities to an appropriate standard and ensuring basic services are delivered effectively	No change to Plan: Out with the remit of Locality Planning. Responsibility for provision and maintenance of universal services and facilities rests with the relevant Community Planning Partner, i.e. public sport and leisure facilities is Sport Aberdeen, public libraries and schools are Aberdeen City Council, and NHS services are NHS Grampian
22.	Concerns about health issues such as obesity and the need for better access to GP and local health services	No change to Plan: There is currently a system-wide multi-agency Healthy Weight Aberdeen programme running in Aberdeen City. This will be included as a system change on Prevention in the new 10 year Local Outcome Improvement Plan. Ideas to increase access to primary care and mobile health services are included in the Plan.
23.	Requests for more allotments or local growing spaces to enable residents to grow food and help address food poverty	No change to Plan: Access to local food growing spaces can be through programmes such as Grow Well Choices, or through supporting the work of a community garden. You can find out more information on setting up your own allotment here
24.	Concerns about antisocial behaviour, environmental issues, and the need for effective policing and community engagement to improve safety and trust	No change to Plan: The Plan has an action focused on improving community safety. The plan has multiple items on strengthening community engagement such as regular engagement with housing tenants; forums to facilitate community conversations between New Scots, asylum

		seekers, refugees and local people; and supporting community groups with external funding applications
25.	Requests for clearer communication, transparency about council plans, and accessible mechanisms for reporting and addressing local issues	No change to Plan: A You Said, We Did response is being prepared to strengthen communication with community members about Locality Planning and the new Local Outcome Improvement Plan. All members of the public are welcome to attend our Locality Empowerment Groups which oversee the delivery of our Locality Plans. More information on Locality Empowerment Groups can be found here and if you live in and around Northfield you can attend the Priority Neighbourhood Partnership, more information can be found here
26.	Concerns that proposals prioritise younger people and “new Scots,” potentially disenfranchising older residents and excluding those who are not digitally literate	No change to Plan: All the actions within the Plan derived from community ideas during our engagement and consultation sessions between March-November 2025. The Plan makes it clear that all residents will be entitled to access universal services such as health services, libraries, recycling centres, and community centres; however some neighbourhoods and groups will receive additional focus and support as they’re experiencing greater levels of need, poverty, and inequalities. This approach is called Proportionate Universalism and it underpins the

		new Locality Plans and Local Outcome Improvement Plan
27.	Call for greater emphasis on Christianity, with concern about the ending of traditional practices such as school nativity plays	No change to Plan: Locality Plans are statutory documents and are required to comply with the Equality Act 2010. We are obligated to make the plans inclusive and welcoming to all Aberdonians regardless of background, ethnicity or belief. Nativity plans are out with the remit of Locality planning, and queries should be addressed to local schools or Parent Teacher Associations
28.	Views that current approaches make it more difficult to distinguish between right and wrong	No change to Plan: Respectfully we don't accept this. The North Plan has clear outcomes and values.
29.	Objection to a perceived agenda that is seen as undermining the traditional nuclear family of a man and a woman with children	No change to Plan: Respectfully we don't accept this. The North Plan has a clear focus on supporting children and families.