



Locality Planning Public Consultation

February-March 2026

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

South Locality Plan

No.	You Said	We Did
1.	Coverage of Communities – The plan is seen as making little or no reference to communities such as Garthdee and other areas in south Aberdeen, including non-priority communities with significant pockets of poverty.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Additional narrative has been included within the South Locality Plan 2026–36 to better recognise communities across the wider south locality while maintaining a data-led focus on priority neighbourhoods with the greatest levels of disadvantage.

2.	Support and Resourcing – Where the plan may apply to these communities, there is no stated intention to support or resource projects within them.	The Plan has been strengthened to clarify the role of partnership working in supporting communities across the locality, including a clearer emphasis on how existing resources, services and community assets can be aligned to support delivery beyond priority neighbourhoods where appropriate
3.	Rationale for Engagement – Due to the lack of reference, support, or resourcing, respondents questioned the rationale for investing time and resources in supporting locality groups outside their core remit.	Plan updated to clarify role of locality groups – Additional narrative has been included to explain the purpose of locality planning as a partnership approach focused on priority neighbourhoods while enabling broader community engagement where appropriate.
4.	Local Authority Resourcing – The issues raised are characterised as resourcing challenges for the local authority and a source of frustration for staff working within localities.	Context clarified – The Plan recognises ongoing resourcing pressures across public services and emphasises partnership working and prioritisation to target available resources effectively.
5.	Reference to Past Practice – A heading indicating consideration of previous approaches (“What did we do before”) is included, but no further detail is provided.	Plan updated to include further detail – The section on previous approaches has been expanded to summarise learning from earlier locality planning and community engagement activity.
6.	Funding for Youth Services: Comments noted that while facilities exist, there is insufficient funding to provide staff to run youth clubs and services across the	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Strengthened reference to partnership working to support youth provision, including maximising use of existing facilities and resources across the locality.

	south locality.	
7.	Levels of Welfare Support: A view was expressed that benefit levels may be too high for the nation to sustain, with a need for careful consideration of what is subsidised.	No change to Plan – National policy context – The Plan focuses on mitigating the impacts of poverty locally; wider benefit levels are set nationally and are out with the scope of the Plan
8.	Local Activities for Families: Comments highlighted the importance of reducing screen time for families through the provision of low-cost, accessible, local activities.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Increased emphasis on accessible, low-cost community activities for families as part of wellbeing and prevention priorities
9.	Effectiveness of Current Approaches: A view that existing methods are not reducing poverty.	No change to Plan – Approach reinforced – The Plan already prioritises tackling poverty through prevention, early intervention and partnership approaches; this has been strengthened in narrative.
10.	Targeting of Support: Concern that money and resources do not consistently reach children.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Clearer focus on targeting support towards children and families most in need, aligned with child poverty priorities
11.	Alternative Forms of Support: Suggestions include universal home heating and community-based meal provision for young people.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – References added to community-based supports (e.g. warm spaces, food initiatives) delivered through partners
12.	Direct Financial Assistance: Concern that cash support may be spent on other items and does not guarantee basic needs such as warmth or food.	Approach clarified – The Plan reflects a range of support options, including in-kind and community-based provision alongside financial support.

13.	Long-Term Solutions: A call for approaches that provide people with a way out of their situation rather than relying solely on cash support.	Plan updated to reinforce long-term outcomes – Greater emphasis placed on employability, skills, and pathways out of poverty
14.	Local Need and Inclusion - Comments highlight specific local areas, including Garthdee, where deprivation indicators are cited as evidence of need, with concern that residents should not feel excluded or left behind.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Additional reference to needs across the whole south locality, while maintaining focus on priority neighbourhoods identified through data.
15.	Perceptions of Eligibility and Fairness - Some respondents question whether all households identified as low income require financial support, noting observed spending patterns and expressing a preference for support focused on budgeting and returning to work.	Approach clarified – The Plan supports a balanced approach combining financial support with employability and financial inclusion services.
16.	Approach to Financial Support - The “Cash First” approach is described as short term, with concern about its effectiveness in building long-term skills and self-sufficiency, and criticism that it was targeted at men only.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Clarified that “cash first” approaches form part of a wider system of support and are not the sole intervention.
17.	Childcare and Employment Barriers - Childcare availability is identified as a barrier to working full time, alongside comments on the limited availability of full-time (39-hour) jobs.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Strengthened reference to childcare and employability barriers within priority outcomes
18.	Empowerment and Resources – Support for participatory approaches is conditional on	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Reinforced commitment to participatory approaches aligned

	decision-making powers being matched with sufficient funding and resources to enable tangible change.	with available resources and realistic delivery expectations
19.	Political Responsiveness and Consultation Quality – Concerns that consultations can be tokenistic, with decisions made contrary to local views, leading to perceptions of disempowerment and unequal benefits across communities.	Approach clarified – The Plan emphasises transparent engagement and ongoing dialogue with communities
20.	Effectiveness and Timeliness of Engagement – Observations that engagement processes can be slow, resulting in limited outcomes or actions occurring too late to be effective.	Plan updated to improve clarity – Greater focus on action planning, timescales, and monitoring to support timely delivery
21.	Investment Priorities and Confidence – Reduced confidence in the programmes discussed, alongside a preference for funding to be directed towards education and social or health partnerships.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Links strengthened between locality priorities and education, health, and social care partnerships.
22.	Community involvement and empowerment - Strong support for increased community involvement, with emphasis on initiatives being community-led, responding to local needs, and supported by clear and transparent processes.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Enhanced emphasis on community-led approaches and co-production. Commitment to engage with New Scots and tenants participation groups.

23.	Use and management of community buildings - General support for repurposing under-used community buildings, provided changes are driven and approved by local communities rather than imposed by the council or other authorities.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Clearer commitment to community involvement in decisions relating to use of community buildings.
24.	Environmental and climate-related activity - Support for linking community participation to practical local climate and environmental action, including use of community spaces and training in climate awareness.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Strengthened links between community activity, climate action, and environmental sustainability
25.	Approaches to communication and information sharing - Concerns about the effectiveness, cost, and durability of noticeboards, websites, and online forums, with calls for more efficient and widely used methods of communication.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Commitment to improving communication through a mix of channels and partnership working
26.	Community events and activities - Mixed views on formal events such as Galas, with some preference for smaller, informal, and low-key activities; questions raised about how groups are supported to organise events.	No change to Plan – Flexible approach recognised – The Plan supports a range of community activities, including informal and small-scale approaches. Level of support will be based on need within target communities
27.	Role of police and authority-led engagement - Scepticism about the value of	No change to Plan – Partnership approach retained – The Plan maintains a multi-agency

	police involvement in community or school engagement, citing limited capacity and concerns about effectiveness, particularly with young people.	approach, including police and partners, based on local need.
28.	Resources, staffing, and priorities - Calls for increased staffing and for prioritising core services and facilities over new engagement platforms or initiatives.	No change to Plan – Resource context noted – The Plan recognises workforce pressures and prioritises delivery within available capacity. Recognises the importance of recruiting and supporting more volunteers and working effectively with third and independent sector partners.
29.	Volunteering and paid roles - Concern that reliance on volunteers may replace paid work, with views expressed that people should be paid for work rather than expected to volunteer.	Clarification added – Volunteering is recognised as complementary and not a replacement for paid roles
30.	Other views raised - An isolated comment expressing concern about immigration levels.	Not within scope – The Plan focuses on local outcomes and does not address national immigration policy.
31.	Loss of Green Space: Concerns about the offloading, closure or destruction of green spaces such as St Fitticks Park, Dominoes Farm, Greyhope Bay and Downies Farm, including land being transferred to energy developments or harbour use.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Strengthened commitment to protecting and enhancing green spaces through partnership working

32.	Council Decision-Making and Trust: Perceptions that council decisions do not reflect local needs in Torry or available evidence, leading to reduced trust in the council's ability to protect and enhance outdoor spaces.	Approach clarified – The Plan emphasises engagement with communities in planning decisions where appropriate.
33.	Outdoor Access and Wellbeing: Emphasis on the importance of accessible outdoor spaces for young people and families to support wellbeing and physical activity.	Plan updated to reinforce wellbeing links – Clearer links between outdoor access, physical activity, and wellbeing outcomes
34.	Maintenance and Management of Open Spaces: Calls for improved upkeep of parks and open spaces, including grass cutting, staffing of sports fields and bowling greens, use of park rangers, and increased planting.	No change to Plan – Operational matters noted – Maintenance issues are recognised but are operational responsibilities out with the Plan.
35.	Use of Land: Views that closed or unused land could be better used for purposes such as livestock grazing or hay production rather than being left unused.	No change to Plan – Not within scope – Specific land use decisions are addressed through other planning processes.
36.	Support for Outdoor and Community Action - Some respondents support using the Hub to improve outdoor spaces, wellbeing, community connection, biodiversity projects, equipment libraries, and climate awareness through	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Strengthened role of community hubs in supporting outdoor and wellbeing activity

	community-led activities.	
37.	Concerns About Spending Priorities - There are views that limited funding should be directed elsewhere, with cycle tracks in particular seen by some as under-used and not a priority.	No change to Plan – Balanced investment approach – The Plan supports a range of active travel and wellbeing initiatives. Preventative health and wellbeing measures have an excellent return on investment in terms of population health
38.	Views on Community Safety Approaches - Formal community safety groups are viewed by some as likely to create tension, with a preference expressed for informal community-building activities to improve safety.	No change to Plan – Community-led safety approaches supported – Emphasis on prevention and community cohesion retained. Scope for informal community safety activity recognised.
39.	Objections to Focus on Specific Areas and Cycling - Questions are raised about focusing on particular neighbourhoods, and concerns are expressed about encouraging more cycling given perceptions of antisocial behaviour and low use of existing cycle infrastructure.	Approach clarified – The Plan focuses on priority areas identified through evidence. Cycling is great for health and wellbeing, and as a form of active travel reduces air pollution across the City. Focus on cycling safety (including e-bikes) included in the Plan.
40.	Protection of Open Space and Confidence in Planning - There is concern about the loss of open spaces following community volunteering efforts, and a lack of confidence that such spaces will be protected from future development.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Reiterated commitment to community involvement in future development discussions.

41.	Early years: Emphasis on early childhood as a critical period, with concerns that children are not receiving adequate attention and care.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Strengthened focus on early years as a key priority.
42.	Digital environment: Concern that the digital world is failing children, including perceptions that parental screen use results in children being left unsupported and uncertainty about the impact of extensive screen use on development, with reference to early research indicating potential negative effects.	No change to Plan – Evidence-based approach retained – The Plan supports healthy development in early years, including parenting support and promotion of outdoor and low cost activities
43.	Financial considerations: A question raised about whether the proposal would result in cost savings.	No change to Plan – Financial impact not primary driver – The Plan focuses on outcomes rather than direct cost savings
44.	Early intervention and prevention - Support for prioritising early intervention, prevention, and both physical and mental wellbeing.	Plan updated to reinforce prevention – Increased emphasis on early intervention and prevention across all priorities.
45.	Nature, climate, and wellbeing - Recognition of connections between nature, climate-positive activity, and health, including linking community initiatives to outdoor activity, biodiversity projects, and environmental stewardship, with associated guidance, training, and volunteer support.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Stronger links between nature, wellbeing, and community activity.

46.	Drug alert messaging - Concerns that drug alert messages may increase stigma and deter people from seeking help, questions about their effectiveness, and suggestions that circulation to professionals only may be sufficient.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Clarified approach to drug alerts with focus on reducing harm and stigma. The Plan will support development of a Harm Reduction Network.
47.	Equity of support for community initiatives - Questions regarding why support is available for some men's sheds but not others.	No change to Plan – Equity approach clarified – Support for initiatives is based on need and available resources. Torry Men's Shed is based in one of the South's priority neighbourhoods.
48.	Housing and Community Facilities - Requests for investment in housing, youth club provision, local amenities, and clarification on why some areas (such as Garthdee) are not classed as priority neighbourhoods.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Strengthened references to housing, youth provision, and local amenities.
49.	Resource Allocation and Local Priorities - Calls for fair access to funding, including Section 75 monies, additional resources for cleanliness, and the development of locality plans informed by community engagement.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Improved visibility of fair resource allocation and use of community-informed priorities where within remit of Locality Planning.
50.	Community Empowerment and Communication - The need for clearer, more transparent communication from the council, support for community empowerment, and	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Enhanced commitment to transparency and community empowerment processes

	improvements to processes for community asset transfer and management of buildings.	
51.	Environment and Cleanliness - Concerns about litter, particularly along the River Dee, broken glass, and the general upkeep of local areas, alongside support for litter-pick initiatives.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Included stronger emphasis on environmental quality and community action.
52.	Safety and Anti-social Behaviour - Issues raised around anti-social behaviour, shoplifting, and dangerous use of bikes and e-scooters, with requests for a stronger multi-agency response.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Reinforced multi-agency approach to community safety.
53.	Vandalism - Reports of vandalism affecting parks and golf courses, including damage linked to e-bikes.	No change to Plan – Operational matter noted – Vandalism addressed through existing services and partnerships
54.	Children’s Wellbeing and Family Issues - Concerns about children’s outcomes linked to screen time, poverty, parental substance misuse, mental health, trauma, and the adequacy of current support.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Strengthened focus on children’s wellbeing and family support.
55.	Green Spaces - Concerns about the erosion or loss of green spaces, particularly in areas such as Balnagask.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Reinforced commitment to protecting green spaces within
56.	Service Quality and Coverage - Comments on the quality of services, perceptions of inefficient spending, and the view that some areas (for example Cove) were not sufficiently considered.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Broader coverage of communities across the south locality acknowledged

57.	Stigma and Suspicion: Concern that the proposed drug alert approach may create stigma and increased suspicion, particularly towards groups already associated with negative drug-related stereotypes.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Greater emphasis on reducing stigma in communications. Commitment to engage with local communities to strengthen our communication
58.	Equity of Access: View that a cash-first approach should be available regardless of gender.	Plan updated to reflect feedback – Approaches will be based on evidence of which cohorts need the most support and where most impact can be delivered
59.	Financial Priority: Emphasis on saving money as the primary consideration.	No change to Plan – Broader outcomes prioritised – The Plan balances financial considerations with long-term social outcomes.