

**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Report by the Chief Officer - Regulatory and Regeneration**

**Planning Committee: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021**

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**Subject: Scottish Government Consultation: Proposals for Regulations on Local Place Plans**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1** To seek approval of the Council's response to the Scottish Government Consultation on the Proposals for Regulations on Local Place Plans.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** It is recommended that Committee approve the response to the consultation as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1** The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 brought forward a series of reforms to the planning system that are intended to improve community engagement and build public trust in the planning system. In particular, the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 gives communities a new right to prepare their own Local Place Plan.
- 3.2** Local Place Plans enable a community to lead on setting the vision for the future of their place. Local Place Plans will be considered when preparing the Local Development Plan and therefore are a key opportunity for the community to engage early and meaningfully in the planning process and influence future development decisions which might impact on their place.
- 3.3** These regulations are part of the wider package of reforms brought through the 2019 Act. The consultation seeks views on the regulations which set out how the provisions of the 2019 Act which relate to Local Place Plans will work in practice.

**4. MAIN ISSUES**

- 4.1** The Act sets out a number of requirements in relation to Local Place Plans which community groups will require to adhere to when preparing their plan. The Act also sets out a number of matters which are expected to be set out in regulations.

**4.2** The consultation document contains the Scottish Government's proposals in relation to the matters to be set out in regulations. These fall under the following three headings:

- Preparation of Local Place Plans
- Submission of Local Place Plans
- Register and map of Local Place Plans

**4.3** The consultation document poses a series of questions on the proposed regulations. A summary of the proposed responses to the consultation is provided below with the full detailed responses to the questions being provided in Appendix 1.

Preparation of Local Place Plans

**4.4** The proposed response agrees with the consultation proposal that a community body preparing a Local Place Plan must have regard to the Locality Plan for the area where there is one in place. It is also suggested that the community body should have regard to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The proposed response agrees with the consultation proposal that the Local Place Plan should, as a minimum, provide "a statement setting out the community's proposals plus a map of the area"; but in addition to this, the proposed response suggests any sites for which there are proposals within the Local Place Plan should also require to be shown on a map. It is also proposed that wider consultation should take place as part of the preparation of the local place plan, and it is suggested that the requirement for this to be inclusive of all members of that community should be included within the regulations.

Submission of Local Place Plans

**4.5** The proposed response agrees with the proposal that the draft Local Place Plan should be consulted on before it is submitted to the Council, requirements of this should be specified within the regulations; however, the Council suggests that to make this a straightforward process for the community they should be kept to a minimum. It is also proposed that ward councillors should be consulted during the plan preparation process and that community bodies should submit a statement of how they have complied with the legal requirements alongside the Local Place Plan itself, all are supported.

Register and map of Local Place Plans

**4.6** The consultation proposes that the register for Local Place Plans, should be aligned with existing arrangements for registers, and that it should include any additional information provided by the community body alongside the Local Place Plan, as well as, any responses to these made by the Council. This is agreed together with the arrangements for making the map of Local Place Plans available to view should be aligned with those that exist for other planning registers is supported. It is agreed that a Local Place Plan should be removed from the register at the request of the community body which prepared it; however, the proposed response also suggests that it should stay on the register until the Local Development Plan which has considered it is superseded. It is also suggested that preparation of a new Local Place Plan

for an area will remove any previous Local Place Plan for that area to be removed from the register.

## **5. PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** There are no people implications.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**6.1** There are no financial implications associated with the response to the consultation. However, if the regulations are implemented there are likely to be financial and resource impacts on the Council. The Council has been trialling an approach to combining the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 with groups in Alexandria and Old Kilpatrick. These pilots have shown that there are financial and staff resources required to assist the community groups to prepare these types of plans. The exact costs are difficult to quantify in this regard but are estimated to have cost the Council to date in the region of £15,000 in staff time, hiring of venues and financial support, which has mainly impacted on the budget of the Communities Team with corresponding staff costs impacting on the Communities, Community Planning and the Forward Planning teams. While there will be a resource impact, primarily on the Forward Planning and Communities teams, this will be managed from existing approved budgets. It is anticipated that work with communities to develop these plans will be programmed in to ensure adequate support can be provided to each community.

## **7. RISK ANALYSIS**

**7.1** There are no known risks to the Council.

## **8. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

**8.1** None.

## **9. CONSULTATION**

**9.1** Community Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration, Housing, Performance and Strategy, and Greenspace have been consulted on the responses to the Proposals for Regulations on Local Place Plans and their views to the proposals have been incorporated in the response in Appendix 1.

## **10. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

**10.1** The above Consultation is considered to contribute particularly to the following strategic priorities: Meaningful engagement with active, empowered and informed citizens who feel safe and engaged; and a strong local economy and improved employment opportunities.

**Peter Hessett**  
**Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration**  
**Date: 23 June 2021.**

**Person to Contact:** Pamela Clifford  
Planning, Building Standards and Environmental Health  
Manager,  
Email: [Pamela.Clifford@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:Pamela.Clifford@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

Antony McGuinness  
Team Leader: Forward Planning  
Email: [antony.mcguinness@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:antony.mcguinness@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

**Appendices:** Appendix 1 – Response to Proposals for Regulations on  
Local Place Plans

**Background Papers:** Scottish Government Proposals for Regulations on Local  
Place Plans

**Wards Affected:** None