

## Questions and answers from Local Place Plans Information Session, 20 February 2023

### 1. Are priority areas defined by geography?

The priority communities are those places facing the biggest challenges and are set out on our pages on the Council website - <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/community-funding-development-and-support/community-development-team>.

### 2. Is a Local Place Plan only Community Council based?

Only community councils or community controlled bodies under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 can produce a Local Place Plan; in some instances, a Plan may be produced jointly. If you have any queries about whether a group meets this requirement, please get in touch and we will try to help.

### 3. Does the net zero target come into the top line of objectives?

As community-led plans, it will be for individual communities to determine their priorities and objectives. However, supporting the transition to net zero emissions is at the heart of National Planning Framework 4 (a key document that must be taken into account when preparing a Local Place Plan) and therefore, making this an objective of a Local Place Plan would ensure alignment with national planning policy. If you were interested in how your community might achieve this, the Council's Sustainability team would be able to assist.

### 4. How do you define a community?

Local Place Plans are to be prepared by a community body, the definition of a Community Body is (a) a community-controlled body within the definition given in section 19 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, or (b) a community council established in accordance with Part 4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973

### 5. Are Local Place Plans compulsory?

No, they are not compulsory. If a community chooses not to prepare a Local Place Plan they will still have the opportunity to participate in the plan-making process through the public consultation process. More details about the consultation process can be found in our [Interim Development Plan Scheme](#); an updated version will be published on 1 April 2023.

### 6. If we are producing a document in the middle of the guidance development what do we work from and will it be superseded as part of the process?

The Scottish Government expects to publish finalised 'how to' guidance during 2024-2028, as set out in the [National Planning Framework 4 Delivery Programme](#). This practical guidance will not change the [legislative requirements](#) for preparing Local Place Plans. As such, communities can proceed with the preparation of plans in the knowledge that the legislation will not change, as things currently stand.

### 7. Will you send an invitation to prepare to communities that are not community bodies?

We expect to issue invitations to all community councils and community-controlled bodies within the area covered by the Stirling Local Development Plan in April 2023. Any community bodies forming after this date will also be issued with invitations. The

invitation will also be published on our website for wider community awareness and transparency.

**8. Does Stirling encourage the use of the Place Standard tool as a means of consulting with, and capturing issues within communities. Especially given the recent Climate Lens additional questions as an aid to considering Net Zero issues?**

Yes, the place standard tool is a great way to consult with and engage your community. If you need advice on this we'd be happy to talk to you further. We are also using the climate lens version to structure our 'Call for Ideas' consultation to inform the Evidence Report for the Local Development Plan (separate from Local Place Plans assistance); we expect to run this consultation between April and July 2023.

**9. In terms of priorities - we suffer hugely from lack of investment in roads / bridges etc. in the rural SW communities - does that count as a priority area?**

Our priority communities are those facing the biggest challenges and are set out on our pages on the Council website - <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/community-funding-development-and-support/community-development-team>

**10. Will you be able to fund consultation expenses per capita?**

We don't have any additional funding other than community grants which is already has set criteria. Please contact the Council's Communities team for more information.

**11. What are the issues for communities who are partially in the Council and partially in the National Park?**

Local Place Plans prepared in these areas will need to have regard to the respective Local Development Plans of each planning authority area. The validation process may also take a little longer as it will need to be submitted and agreed by each authority. Otherwise, the process for preparing and submitting a plan will be the same.

**12. Can you confirm that we don't need to wait until Spring 2025 to submit?**

Yes, the Spring 2025 period is the anticipated cut-off being for Local Place Plans to be registered in time to be taken into account in the preparation of the next Local Development Plan. Earlier submission may be beneficial because once validated and registered a Local Place Plan will carry material weight in the determination of planning applications, with the weight to be applied determined by the facts and circumstances of each individual case.

**13. We know the costs of a proper consultation with a population of 10,000. So are you happy to receive substandard reports?**

There is no legal requirement to engage wider community but it is strongly encouraged - this gives flexibility in terms of process allowing communities to tailor their approach to fit their circumstances. Plans will be validated and registered regardless of style or quality provided that the legislative requirements have been followed.

**14. Realistically how much notice will Stirling Council take of Local Place Plans when developing Local Development Plans?**

As part of developing the next Local Development Plan, we must have regard to all registered Local Place Plans. As Local Place Plans have to be balanced alongside other, sometimes competing, considerations it does not mean that every proposal within a Local

Place Plan will be carried forward into the Local Development. However, as a community produced proposal as to the development and use of land, the general expectation is that they will carry significant weight in informing Local Development Plans and will play an important role in enabling local authorities to produce place-based Plans that deliver for local communities.

**15. Is it definite that the geographic boundaries must not overlap between one area and another?**

No, we cannot prevent multiple Local Place Plans covering the same geographical area. However, where Local Place Plans cover the same area and contain competing proposals we will have to carefully consider each proposal to determine which one, if any, is to become part of the Local Development Plan.

**16. Do you have recent life tables for the Dunblane population? Data on income distribution within community etc?**

We are currently working with preparing Place Profiles for each settlement/locality that will contain local population data. We hope to publish these on our website alongside the invitation to prepare Local Place Plans, or shortly thereafter.

**17. Our community is 85% National Park and 15% Stirling Council. Can we still access your advice?**

Yes, please make full use of any of the resources and guidance we make available, we can also advise on the process if you need it.