

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Development Plan Scheme

February 2025



Table of Contents

1. What is a development plan?	1
2. What is a Development Plan Scheme?	2
3. Current Development Plan in Falkirk	3
4. Falkirk Local Development Plan (LDP3) Process	6
5. LDP3 Progress	9
6. LDP3 Timetable	10
7. Participation Statement – Getting People Involved	12
8. Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)	20
9. Local Place Plans (LPPs)	20
10. Let us know what you think	21
Glossary	22

1. What is a development plan?

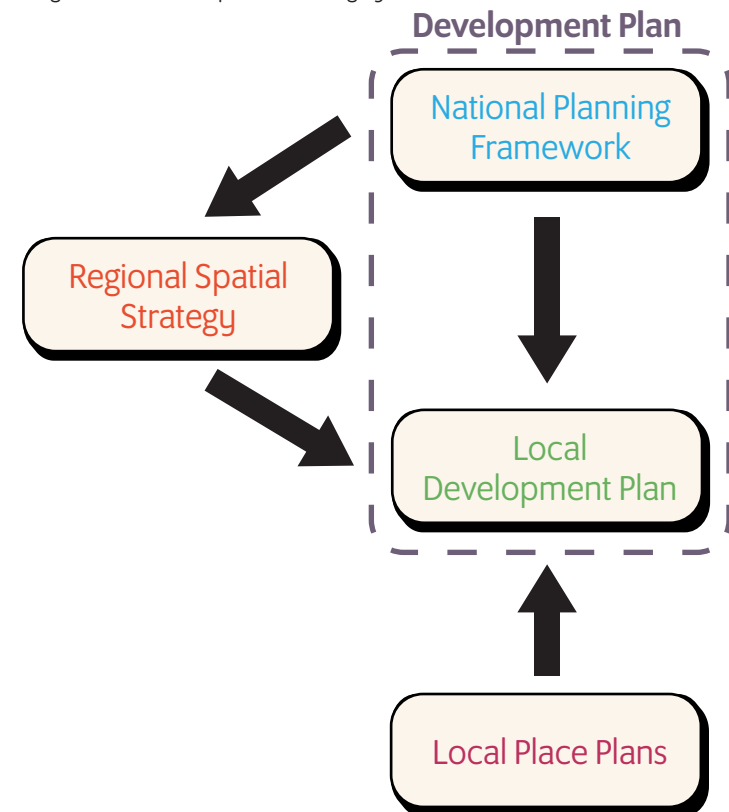
Development plans guide the use and development of land within an area. They contain strategies, policies and proposals which indicate where development should or should not take place and provide guidance on the way places should be designed. They cover topics such as housing, business, town centres, greenspace, transport, community infrastructure and the historic and natural environment. They normally consist of a written document and maps which show where development is proposed and where various policies apply. The development plan is important because it is the main consideration in determining planning applications.

The system of development planning in Scotland has recently changed. Previously, the development plan in Falkirk consisted of a Local Development Plan (LDP) and Supplementary Guidance (SG), both prepared by the Council. However, under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, the development plan now consists of the National Planning Framework (NPF), prepared by the Scottish Government, and the LDP (Figure 1). The process and procedures for preparing LDPs have also changed significantly, including the extension of the review period from 5 to 10 years.

The new Planning Act also makes provision for Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS), which are strategic plans which will be prepared by groups

of adjacent planning authorities, and Local Place Plans (LPPs), which are prepared by communities. Although not formally part of the development plan, they can both have an influence on LDPs.

Figure 1: New Development Planning System



2. What is a Development Plan Scheme?

The Council must prepare a Development Plan Scheme (DPS) every year. The scheme has two main purposes:

- (i) to set out the Council's timetable for preparing its LDP; and
- (ii) to indicate when consultation is likely to take place on the LDP, with whom, and the likely form of the consultation, including steps to be taken to involve the public at the various stages of the preparation of the plan (this section is called the Participation Statement).

An overview of the key elements of the development planning system in Falkirk is provided in Section 3. The broad timetable for the preparation of the Council's next LDP (LDP3) is set out in Section 4. Progress to date on LDP3 is described in section 5. The Participation Statement for LDP3 set out in Section 6. Finally, an update on progress with the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Place Plans is provided in Sections 7 and 8.

The Council is required to consult with the public on the content of the Participation Statement. Consultation was carried out in 2022 on how people and organisations wanted to be involved in the preparation of LDP3, and there was a further invitation for comments in advance of this DPS.



3. Current Development Plan in Falkirk

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)

NPF4 is now part of the development plan for the area, having been adopted by the Scottish Government in February 2023.

NPF4 consists of:

- **National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045** – this is based on the three themes of Sustainable Places, Liveable Places and Productive Places. It sets out spatial principles, a list of National Developments and regional spatial priorities.

- **National Planning Policy** - detailed planning policies which will be used in day-to-day planning decision making within the Council area. The intention is that these standardised national policies will replace most of the general policy content in LDPs.

Falkirk Local Development Plan 2

LDP2 was adopted in August 2020 and covers the whole of the Falkirk Council area. Its detailed policies and proposals are intended to cover the period up to 2030, although with work on LDP3 now commenced, it will be replaced before this date.

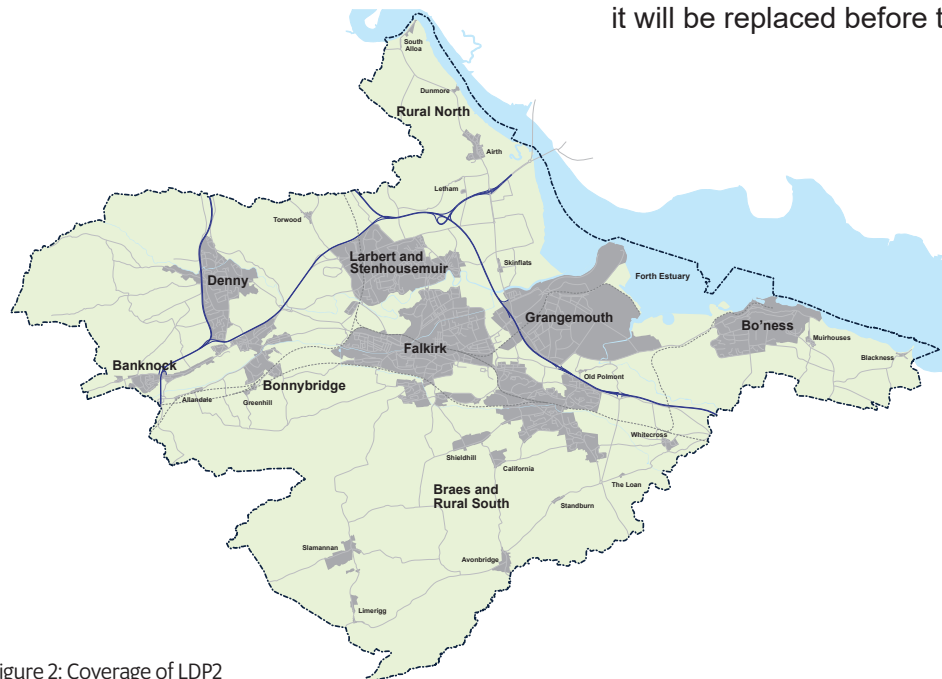



Figure 2: Coverage of LDP2



LDP2's vision sees the Falkirk area as **'the place to be: a dynamic and distinctive area at the heart of central Scotland characterised by a network of thriving communities set within high quality greenspaces, and a growing economy which is of strategic importance in the national context, providing an attractive, inclusive and sustainable place in which to live, work and invest'**.

The spatial strategy paints a broad picture of how the area as a whole will develop in the years to come, including:

- Some 8,000 new homes to be built between 2017-2030 with a focus on 12 strategic growth areas, with a system of green belt to maintain the identity of communities;
- 4 strategic business locations focused on Falkirk, Grangemouth and the M9 corridor;
- A programme of transport, education, drainage, flood management and healthcare infrastructure to support growth;
- A network of town, local and commercial centres as the spatial focus of services for communities; and
- A multi-functional green network wrapping around and through the area's communities

LDP2 contains settlement statements which explain the implications of the plan and the key proposals and opportunities as they relate to each of the main communities. It includes policies which set out the Council's attitude to particular types of development across the area, or in particular types of area (conservation areas, core business areas, green

belt etc). A proposals map illustrates the policies and proposals on a detailed Ordnance Survey map base.

An [Action Programme](#) has been prepared to accompany LDP2, setting out the actions required to deliver the various elements of the plan, and the agencies responsible. This was adopted in October 2020 and updated in 2022. The Action Programme is expected to be updated and converted into a Delivery Programme by the end of March 2025.

Supplementary Guidance

In association with LDP2, the Council has prepared 14 [Supplementary Guidance \(SG\) notes](#) to provide further guidance and interpretation on some key policies in the plan. These are listed in Figure 3. Under the new Planning Act, there is no provision for statutory supplementary guidance, but this guidance will remain legally part of the development plan until LDP2 is replaced.

Figure 3: LDP2 Supplementary Guidance

Ref	Title
SG01	Development in the Countryside
SG02	Neighbourhood Design
SG03	Residential Extensions & Alterations
SG04	Shopfronts
SG05	Green Infrastructure & New Development
SG06	Affordable Housing
SG07	Biodiversity and Development
SG08	Local Nature Conservation & Geodiversity Sites
SG09	Landscape Character Assessment & Landscape Designations
SG10	Trees and Development
SG11	Antonine Wall World Heritage Site
SG12	Listed Buildings & Unlisted Properties in Conservation Areas
SG13	Developer Contributions
SG14	Renewable & Low Carbon Energy

4. Falkirk Local Development Plan (LDP3) Process

Falkirk Council commenced formal preparation of LDP3 in February 2023 under the new provisions of the Planning (Scotland) 2019. The new process is set out in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4: New Local Development Plan Process

STAGE 1 - DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME

- A Development Plan Scheme is prepared outlining the timetable for the plan and how people will be engaged as part of the process for preparing it.



STAGE 2 - EVIDENCE REPORT

- Information is gathered for the Evidence Report, informed by consultation with key agencies, stakeholders, the public and a range of other groups including children and young people.
- An invitation to communities to prepare Local Place Plans (LPPs) is issued.
- Scoping of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) takes place.
- The Council prepares, consults on and publishes the Evidence Report .



STAGE 3 - GATE CHECK

- The Evidence Report is submitted to Scottish Ministers.
- A reporter is appointed and assesses the sufficiency of the Evidence Report.
- The reporter confirms that the Evidence Report is sufficient or prepares an assessment report with recommendations for improvement.
- The Council revises the Evidence Report if necessary and resubmits it to Scottish Ministers.





STAGE 4 - PROPOSED PLAN

- A 'Call for Ideas' is issued, inviting submissions on potential development sites or other improvements.
- A Site Assessment is carried out.
- The Council prepares the Proposed Plan, together with a proposed Delivery Programme, Environmental Report and other required assessments.
- Consultation takes place on the Proposed Plan for a minimum of 12 weeks.
- The Council decides whether it wishes to make modifications to the plan and publishes a Modifications Report.
- The Council prepares its response to unresolved issues and submits the Proposed Plan to Scottish Ministers.



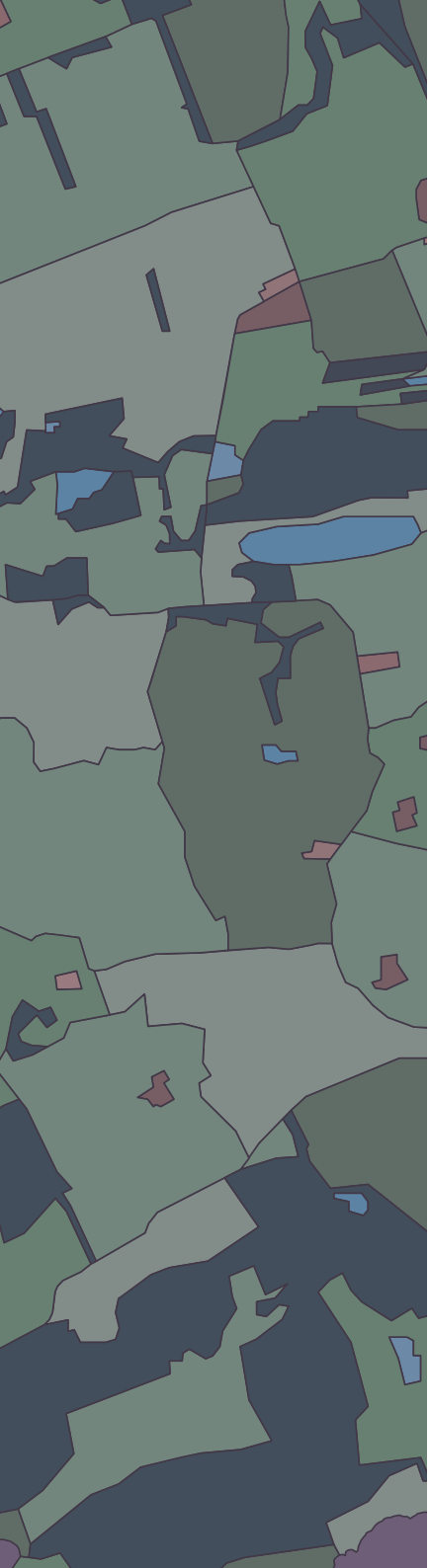
STAGE 5 - EXAMINATION

- A reporter is appointed to conduct the Examination into unresolved issues.
- The reporter checks that the Council has met its consultation commitments outlined in the Participation Statement.
- The reporter decides whether to obtain further information by means of an inquiry, hearing or written information requests.
- An Examination Report is produced with recommendations on modifications which are largely binding on the Council.
- If the reporter considers that insufficient land has been identified, they may instruct the Council to prepare another Proposed Plan.



STAGE 6 - ADOPTION & DELIVERY

- The Council makes the required modifications and adopts the plan.
- The Delivery Programme is published within 3 months of plan adoption.
- The plan is delivered.



Alongside the above plan preparation process, a number of parallel assessments have to be undertaken as described below.

Local Development Plans need to undergo **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**. SEA is a process whereby the significant environmental effects of the policies and proposals in the plan, and the reasonable alternatives, are identified. It also sets out measures which might be incorporated into the plan to reduce any negative effects. SEA is a process which is closely integrated with each stage of LDP preparation.

A further statutory process which must be applied to the plan is **Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)**. This is a process which assesses any effects which the plan may have on the integrity of European protected nature conservation sites.

An **Equalities and Poverty Impact Assessment** and **Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment** will be carried out to fulfil the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the Fairer Scotland Duty.

5. LDP3 Progress

Progress has been made since the launch of the plan in February 2023 as described below.

Early Engagement

Following the formal launch of the plan in February 2023, a programme of early engagement was undertaken comprising:

- A 'Tell Us About your Place' online public survey based on the Place Standard, including tailored surveys and events for children and young people.
- A Business and Organisations Survey inviting views and information which might inform the Evidence Report.
- Publicity for the new plan and the associated surveys.
- A training event for community councils and other community bodies.
- Meetings and communication with key agencies to discuss their areas of interests and associated evidence.
- Briefing sessions with councillors
- The establishment of a corporate working group to facilitate the capture of evidence from other Council services.

Evidence Report and Gate Check

As a means of compiling and consulting on its provisional view of the evidence, the Council prepared and issued 14 Topic Papers for comment during spring 2024. The Evidence Report was assembled by integrating the content of the Topic Papers, having regard to the responses to made during the consultation.

The Evidence Report was approved by the Council on 3 October 2024 and submitted to Scottish Ministers for Gate Check on 25 October 2024. In January 2025, following assessment by a Scottish Government reporter, the Evidence Report was deemed sufficient, allowing the Council to proceed with the preparation of the Proposed Plan.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

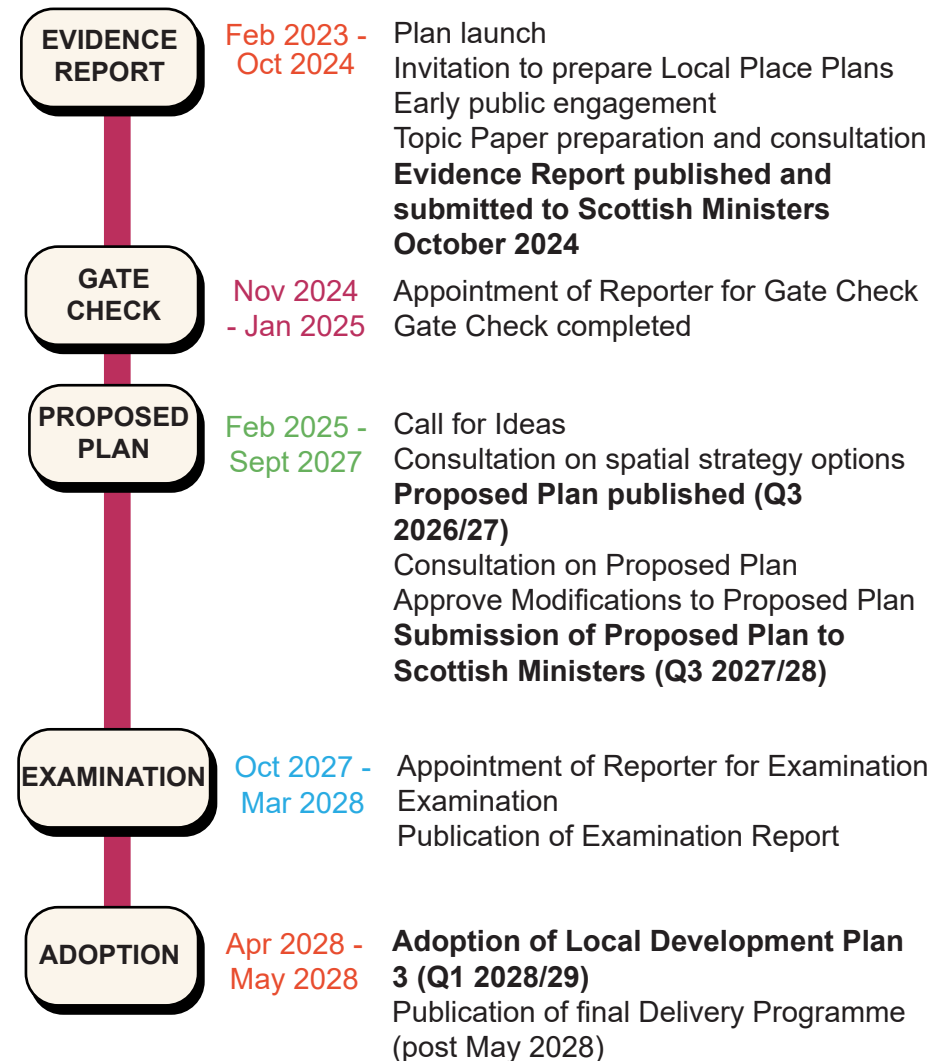
Local Development Plans need to undergo SEA. A draft SEA Scoping Report was produced as one of the Topic Papers and was subject to consultation with the statutory consultation authorities (SEPA, NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland). The Scoping Report has been finalised alongside the Evidence Report.


6. LDP3 Timetable

A key role of this Development Plan Scheme is to set out the timetable for preparation of LDP3. In considering the programme, the Council has taken into account the Scottish Government's Transitional Guidance for managing the transition to the new development plan system. It indicates that planning authorities should have 'new style' LDPs in place within 5 years of the Development Plan Regulations coming into force, i.e. May 2028.

The indicative programme, including the timescale for the various stages outlined in Figure 4 and the timings for key events as required by the Regulations, is shown in Figure 5. The timings for key events are specified by year and quarter (i.e. Quarter 1: April-June; Quarter 2: July-Sept; Quarter 3 Oct-Dec; Quarter 4: Jan-March). Completed stages are included for information.

Figure 5: LDP3 Timescale





The timetable in Figure 5 indicates adoption of LDP3 in May 2028, meeting the Scottish Government's timeframe. Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Regulations 2023 requires planning authorities to identify and give reasons for any difference between the timetable of successive Development Plan Schemes. The timetable shows slippage of some four months in the projected date of adoption compared to that shown in the 2024 Development Plan Scheme. This is the result of:

- Some delay in the publication of the Evidence Report, attributed to the timing of Council meetings and associated lead times; and
- The need for additional time following the publication of the Proposed Plan to allow for consultation, the processing and assessment of representations and Council approval of modifications.

7. Participation Statement – Getting People Involved

Introduction

The success of the LDP3 process depends on getting the public and a wide range of stakeholders involved. Many different people, organisations and businesses have an interest in the future development of the area and the plan will have an impact on everyone who lives and works here.

Planning legislation sets out requirements for community engagement. These have been enhanced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 through the introduction of local place plans, and the specific provisions to involve children and young people, and other groups such as gypsy/travellers and disabled people. The Scottish Government has also published guidance on Effective Community Engagement which will inform the Council's approach.

The Council aspires to go beyond the minimum required by the legislation and aims to improve on the level of participation achieved through LDP2. Following adoption of the LDP2, a survey was carried out which showed that:

- many people still are not aware of the LDP;
- people are nonetheless interested in planning, and want to have a say on a wide range of issues affecting their places;
- people increasingly want to access information

and make comments by digital means, although a minority still prefer to engage through more traditional means;

- where people did engage, they found it easy to make comments; and
- people often feel that their input has no influence on the plan.

In autumn 2022, we carried out a further survey on how people and organisations wished to be involved in the plan. This highlighted a number of potential barriers to involvement and some suggestions on how these barriers could be overcome. It also gave an idea on people's preferences in terms of publicity and engagement methods.

The results of these two surveys have helped to shape our consultation plans for LDP3, and target areas for improvement. New opportunities to engage more widely and effectively are being opened up by the greater use of digital technology and social media.

This participation statement sets out some general principles which will guide engagement on LDP3 and indicates when we will consult (based on the plan preparation stages), how we will consult, and who we will consult.

What general principles will we follow?

The approach to engagement on LDP3 will be shaped by the following principles, which are based on the National Standards for Community Engagement and the Council's own Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2028:

- **Inclusion:** We will identify and involve the people and organisations who are affected by, or interested in, the focus of the engagement.
- **Support:** We will identify and seek to overcome any barriers to participation in community engagement.
- **Planning:** There is a clear purpose for the engagement, which is based on a shared understanding of community needs and ambitions.
- **Methods:** We will use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose.
- **Working together:** We will work effectively together with individuals, communities and organisations to achieve the aims of the engagement
- **Communication:** We will communicate clearly and regularly with the people, organisations and communities affected by the engagement.
- **Impact:** We will assess the impact of the engagement and use what we have learned to improve our future community engagement.

We are aware that the Council and other agencies consult frequently with the public. Consequently, we will map out and take account of these other consultations, in an attempt to avoid duplication and 'consultation fatigue'.

Planning is a complex process and it is also important that we help people to understand the range of factors which influence and constrain decision making on the LDP.

How and when will we get people involved?

Figure 6 identifies the Council's broad intentions for consultation and engagement at each stage of plan preparation. Actions that are completed are greyed out.

Figure 6: Proposed Engagement during the LDP3 Process

Plan Stage	Engagement Stages and Actions
Development Plan Scheme Annually Feb/ March	Consultation on Development Plan Scheme <u>Purpose:</u> To give stakeholders, including the public, a say in how the Council engages with them in the preparation of the plan. <u>Actions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with key stakeholders to discuss their involvement. • Consult with the public and stakeholders on how they want to be involved in the plan.
Evidence Report Feb 2023 – Oct 2024	Plan Launch and Call for Evidence <u>Purpose:</u> To alert people to the start of the LDP3 process and gather information from organisations and communities to help the Council prepare the Evidence Report <u>Actions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch plan process with appropriate publicity highlighting process and opportunities to contribute to evidence gathering. • Carry out a public consultation to allow people to submit evidence about their places (using Place Standard). • Consult with business and organisations. • Issue invitation to prepare LPPs. • Engage with key agencies and organisations to gather specific evidence. • Engage with disability groups and gypsy/travellers (or representatives) to seek views on the planning issues facing them. • Engage with children and young people to seek their views on the places where they live. • Engage with community councils, offering a training event on the new plan process. • Consult consultation authorities on the scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment. • Consult on Topic Papers on which the Evidence Report will be based.
Gate Check Nov 2024 – Jan 2025	No significant engagement at this stage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will publicise the submission of the Evidence Report to Scottish Ministers and the outcome of the Gate Check.

Plan Stage	Engagement Stages and Actions
Proposed Plan Jan 2025 – Sep 2027	<p>Call for Ideas</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> To provide an opportunity for people and organisations to put forward ideas and sites for inclusion in the Proposed Plan.</p> <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out ‘Call for Sites exercise aimed at developers/landowners, and a parallel ‘Call for Ideas’ exercise aimed at communities <p>Spatial Strategy and Options Consultation</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> To provide stakeholders with an opportunity to help shape the plan’s spatial strategy, through reviewing and commenting on the options put forward through the ‘Call for Sites and Ideas’ exercise.</p> <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a public consultation focused on growth and development options for the different settlement areas which have emerged from the Call for Sites and Ideas • Engage with councillors on options for the spatial strategy. <p>Consultation on Proposed Plan</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> To publicise and explain the content of the Proposed Plan and allow people to make formal representations to it.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult on the Proposed Plan, proposed Delivery Programme and Environmental Report for a minimum of 12 weeks. • Issue a newsletter providing a concise summary of the Proposed Plan. • Notify neighbours of sites proposed for development in the Proposed Plan. • Make available a summary of all comments made on the Proposed Plan and the Council’s response to them. • Make available the modifications which the Council intends to make to the Proposed Plan • Publicise the submission of the Proposed Plan to Scottish Ministers
Examination April 2027 – October 2027	<p>No significant engagement at this stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify all parties with unresolved representations of the Examination process • Make available the Examination documentation, including the final Examination report and Reporter’s recommendations
Adoption Apr 2028 – May 2028	<p>No significant engagement at this stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicise the adoption of LDP3 and the Delivery Programme

What engagement techniques will we use?

The Council may use various consultation techniques as part of engagement on LDP3:

Workshops – these may be in-person or virtual online events depending on the audience and circumstances.

Events/exhibitions – these may be drop in-events in the communities to publicise the Proposed Plan, with an emphasis on those communities where most change is anticipated.

Online surveys – we expect to use the Council's Participate + platform to host online surveys.

Resources – as part of our engagement with children and young people, we hope to develop resources whereby they can explore their places and how these places may develop in the future.

How will we publicise the LDP3 and engagement opportunities?

The Council aims to improve awareness and participation levels through better publicity through the various plan stages. We are likely to use:

Mailings – our mailing list has over 750 individuals and organisations and we will refresh this on a

regular basis. We will e-mail at all key stages of the plan and when we have important information to communicate. In addition, we expect to use partners' newsletters to reach a wider audience.

Adverts – newspaper adverts remain a legal requirement at certain stages of plan preparation and we will continue to post these in the Falkirk Herald and Bo'ness Journal.

Web Site – we will maintain up to date information on our LDP web page, including all relevant documentation.

Social Media – we will share information on our own LDP Facebook page and publicise important events and milestones through the Council's Twitter Feed. We will also get posts shared on other Council and community social media sites, e.g. Falkirk Explored, to achieve wider coverage. We will aim to create engaging content, e.g. videos, to encourage participation.

Newsletters – we will continue to send out our 'Development Plan Update' newsletter at key points in the plan process.

Representative Groups/Organisations – for underrepresented groups, we will use representative organisations as an intermediary to engage effectively. For children and young people, we expect this to be through schools, youth forums and the Youth Parliament.

Who will we get involved?

Anyone can get involved in the LDP3 process. However, in Figure 7, the main stakeholder groups that we expect to have an interest in the plan are identified, along with the main way by which we expect to engage with each group.

Figure 7a: LDP Stakeholder Groups - Public Sector

Public Sector Participants	Main publicity/engagement techniques to be used
Scottish Government (including Transport Scotland)	Mailings Meetings/workshops as appropriate
Key Agencies (NatureScot, SEPA, Scottish Water, Scottish Enterprise, SEStran, NHS Forth Valley, Historic Environment Scotland)	Mailings Meetings/workshops as appropriate
Other National Agencies (e.g. Marine Scotland, HSE, Public Health Scotland, Scottish Canals, Coal Authority, Scottish Forestry)	Mailings Meetings/workshops as appropriate
Neighbouring Local Authorities	Mailings Meetings with Regional Spatial Strategy partners

Figure 7b: LDP Stakeholder Groups - Community

Community Participants	Main publicity/engagement techniques to be used
Public	Mailings/social media/adverts/website/newsletters Online surveys/call for ideas
Community Councils	Mailings/social media/adverts/website/newsletters Training event/meetings as appropriate Workshops/online surveys/call for sites Local place plan liaison/assistance as appropriate
Other Community Groups	Mailings/social media/adverts/website/newsletters Training event/meetings as appropriate Workshops/online surveys/call for sites Local place plan liaison/assistance as appropriate
MPs and MSPs	Mailings
Children and Young People	Social media/website/newsletter Meetings with youth representatives Tailored online survey/call for ideas Develop specific resources
Gypsy/Travellers	Work through local liaison officer Meetings as appropriate
Disabled People	Work through representative groups Meetings as appropriate

Figure 7c: LDP Stakeholder Groups - Other Organisations

Other Organisations Participants	Main publicity/engagement techniques to be used
Environmental Organisations (e.g. Green Action Trust, RSPB, Scottish Wildlife Trust)	Mailings Workshops/online surveys
Transport Organisations (e.g. Sustrans, First Bus, Network Rail)	Mailings Workshops/online surveys
Energy, Waste and Utility Companies (e.g. Scottish Power, SGN, National Grid)	Mailings Online surveys
Telecoms Operators	Mailings Online surveys

Figure 7d: LDP Stakeholder Groups - Falkirk Council

Falkirk Council Participants	Main publicity/engagement techniques to be used
Councillors	Mailings/website/newsletter Meetings as appropriate Briefings/workshops Approval of key LDP stages by Council
Council Services	Mailings Meetings as appropriate Corporate LDP working group

Figure 7e: LDP Stakeholder Groups - Private Sector

Private Sector Participants	Main publicity/engagement techniques to be used
Business Organisations (e.g. Falkirk Delivers)	Mailings/social media/ adverts/website/newsletters Meetings/workshops as appropriate
Local Businesses	Mailings/social media/ adverts/website/newsletters Meetings with key companies Online surveys/call for ideas
Developers/ Housebuilders (including Housing Associations, Homes for Scotland)	Mailings/social media/ adverts/website/newsletters Meetings as appropriate Workshops/online surveys/ call for ideas
Landowners	Mailings/social media/ adverts/website/newsletters Meetings as appropriate Workshops/online surveys/ call for sites



Mediation

Mediation is a technique which can be used to build bridges between stakeholders and resolve areas of dispute. It has potential application in development planning, as highlighted by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and the subsequent guidance which has been developed by the Scottish Government. The latter stages of the plan when the Proposed Plan is published and subject to representation is the stage at which mediation may be most applicable. The Council will be open to considering any requests from stakeholders to use mediation, taking into account the potential benefits in terms of saving time and cost, and fostering better relationships going forward. This could be on an informal basis, or through an independent third party.



8. Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)

Regional spatial strategies are to be prepared by planning authorities, acting individually or in groupings. They will identify the need for strategic development and the locations for such development. Strategic development is defined as development which has a significant impact across more than one local authority area. Though not part of the statutory development plan, they will provide a context for LDPs, painting a bigger regional picture.

Falkirk Council has formally agreed to work with Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils with a view

to developing a Forth Valley RSS. An indicative RSS was prepared in 2021 to test the benefits that may arise from collaboration across the region. There is potential for alignment with emerging regional partnership approaches in both economic development and transport.

A working group of officers from the three planning authorities is progressing initial project planning. However, statutory guidance on the RSS process is still awaited from Scottish Government.

9. Local Place Plans (LPPs)

LPPs are prepared by community bodies and are an opportunity for local people to set out their aspirations for the planning of their area. They contain proposals for the use and development of land, setting out how and why the existing LDP should be amended. They may also identify land and buildings of particular significance in the local area. LPPs must be taken into account by the LDP.

The Council issued a formal invitation to communities to prepare LPPs in March 2023, indicating that these should be submitted to the Council by April 2025 if they are to be taken into account in LDP3. The Council has also prepared a brief guide to local place plans and has set out the package of assistance that it will provide.

10. Let us know what you think

This Development Plan Scheme will be reviewed annually and comments on it are welcome. These comments will be taken into consideration when the document is reviewed. You can submit comments by emailing us at ldp@falkirk.gov.uk

Glossary

Adoption

The name for the final step in the local development plan process, when the plan becomes operative, and formally replaces the previous plan.

Call for Sites and Ideas

A consultation exercise undertaken prior to the preparation of the Proposed Plan during which the planning authority invites the submission of ideas from the community, landowners and developers for development or improvement of sites.

Delivery Programme

A document which is prepared alongside the local development plan which sets out how the planning authority proposes to implement the plan. This includes a list of actions required to deliver each of the plan's policies and proposals, the name of the party who is to carry out the actions, and the timescale. Previously called an Action Programme.

Development Plan Scheme (DPS)

A document which planning authorities are required to prepare every year which sets out their programme for preparing and reviewing the Local Development Plan, and what is likely to be involved at each stage. It must also contain a Participation Statement which states when, how, and with whom consultation on the plan will take place.

Development Plan


A document or documents which guides future development and land use in an area. The Development Plan is the basis for planning decision making. Applications for planning permission have to be made in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Currently, in Falkirk it consists of the Local Development Plan and Supplementary Guidance. Under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, the Development Plan will comprise the National Planning Framework and the Local Development Plan.

Evidence Report

Under the new LDP process introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, this is the first formal stage in the preparation of the plan. It gathers together information which provided the evidence base for the plan and is scrutinised by Scottish Ministers through a 'gate check' process.

Examination

The process whereby unresolved issues raised by objections to a plan are subject to scrutiny and adjudication by an independent reporter. They are usually overseen by a team of reporters appointed by Scottish Ministers, who may seek further information by means of inquiry sessions, hearings, or written



information requests. Most issues are now dealt with through written submissions. At the need of the process, an Examination Report is published containing the reporters' recommended modifications to the plan, which are largely binding on the planning authority.

Gate Check

The process whereby the Evidence Report is assessed by a Scottish Government Reporter to check if it is sufficient, prior to the planning authority starting preparation of the Proposed Plan.

Local Development Plan (LDP)

A detailed spatial plan for an area which contains a spatial strategy and site specific policies and proposals for future development, represented on a proposals map.

Local Place Plans (LPP)

LPPs are prepared by community bodies and are an opportunity for local people to set out their aspirations for the planning of their area. They will set out proposals for the use and development of land, setting out how and why the existing LPP should be amended. They may also identify land and buildings of particular significance in the local area. LPPs must be taken into account by the LDP.

National Planning Framework (NPF)

A spatial plan covering the whole of Scotland, which identifies national developments. The current version is NPF3, and NPF4 is expected to be adopted in autumn 2022. Under the Planning (Scotland) Act

2019, its status will be enhanced. NPF4 incorporates national planning policies which are currently set out in Scottish Planning Policy, and will become a formal part of the statutory Development Plan.

Participation Statement

The part of the Development Plan Scheme which sets out the planning authority's proposals for engagement with people on the LDP.

Policies

Statements that express the planning authority's views on particular types of development, in particular types of area. They also provide standards and criteria against which proposals for development will be judged.

Proposals

Sites identified in a plan for a specific development (e.g. housing, business, infrastructure).

Proposed Plan

A document which represents the Council's view on what the final content of the plan should be. It is subject to consultation, and may be modified, before being submitted to Scottish Ministers for Examination.

Regional Spatial Strategy

A document produced by planning authorities, acting individually or in regional groupings, setting out the need for, and location of strategic development in an area. It has been introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 to replace Strategic Development Plans.

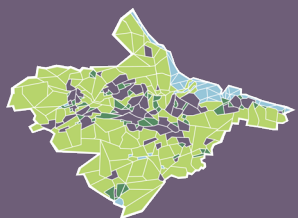


Strategic Environmental Assessment

A process whereby the effects of plans on the environment are identified, and mitigation to reduce negative environment effects is outlined. The findings of the process are detailed in the Environmental Report.

Supplementary Guidance

Documents which provide more detail about the interpretation and implementation of plan policies. Statutory supplementary guidance, which currently forms part of the development plan, must have a clear reference in the strategic/local development plan, must be subject to consultation, and be approved by Scottish Ministers. Under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, supplementary guidance will no longer be part of the Development Plan and will not have statutory status.



Falkirk Local Development Plan 3

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Development Plan Scheme

February 2025