

Covid-19 - Maintaining a Functioning Planning System

Briefing Note – Friday 26 June 2020

Local Development Plan

The consultation for the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2020 has been extended until 31 July 2020.

Development Management Site Visits

Subject to appropriate risk assessment and where an essential need is clear, the Planning and Environment Service is again in a position to undertake site visits. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation and looking forward in general, the Development Management Service are seeking to implement new ways of working including reducing the amount of physical site visits undertaken for planning applications, and in the short term allowing progression of applications where a site visit could not currently be safely conducted. Whilst undertaking of physical site visits will still be required for many applications, we may contact you to seek your co-operation in conducting a **Virtual Site Visit** as an alternative. This involves the planning application Case Officer contacting you with a view to use of video call technology in order to be shown around the site in real time. In addition, in many cases we will request supporting information such as photographs of the site to enable us to review the proposal further. In that regard and where possible we would encourage the submission of photographic surveys when submitting planning applications to Aberdeenshire Council.

Virtual Site Visits can be conducted using the Microsoft Teams app on a mobile device. It will generally be most appropriate for the Virtual Site Visit to be undertaken by the person residing or locating at the site or near to the site to avoid the need for travel/unnecessary contact. Further information is provided in the attached Virtual Site Visit Guidance Note. Please contact the Planning and Environment Service for further details on this process. Please note, a Virtual Site Visit may not substitute the requirement for a physical site visit by Officers in all circumstances.

Please also refer to the [Virtual Site Visit Privacy Notice](#) for further information in relation to how we will process and store this data.