



EAST AYRSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME

2022

16 March 2022

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Summary of 2022 work plan**
- 3.0 Local Development Plan 2017**
- 4.0 Minerals Local Development Plan 2020**
- 5.0 Local Development Plan 2 including Participation Statement**
- 6.0 Local Development Plan 3**
- 7.0 Regional Spatial Strategy and Draft National Planning Framework 4**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Every planning authority must prepare a Development Plan Scheme on at least an annual basis. This sets out the authority's timetable for preparing and reviewing their Strategic Development Plan or Local Development Plan and outlines how this will be done. The Development Plan Scheme must also contain a Participation Statement which sets out how people can get involved in the plan preparation process.

1.2 East Ayrshire Council does not need to prepare a Strategic Development Plan; instead it is required only to prepare Local Development Plan(s) (LDP). As there is no strategic level development plan for East Ayrshire, the local development plan is required to set out a strategic vision for the area.

1.3 In April 2017, East Ayrshire Council adopted the East Ayrshire Local Development Plan (2017). This replaced the East Ayrshire Local Plan (2010) for all matters excluding minerals. As stated in previous Development Plan Schemes, the Council's Cabinet decided in August 2013 that a separate Minerals Local Development Plan that would cover all mineral extraction matters should be prepared, in addition to the East Ayrshire Local Development Plan.

1.4 In January 2020, East Ayrshire Council adopted the East Ayrshire Minerals Local Development Plan. This means the development plan now comprises the Minerals LDP (2020) and the East Ayrshire LDP (2017).

1.5 In addition to the aforementioned documents, the Council has approved a number of statutory Supplementary Guidance and non-statutory Planning Guidance documents. The statutory Supplementary Guidance forms part of the Local Development Plan (see section 3 below).

1.4 Work is underway on the preparation of the East Ayrshire LDP2 which once adopted will supersede both the East Ayrshire LDP (2017) and Minerals LDP (2020).

1.5 Both the East Ayrshire LDP and the East Ayrshire Minerals LDP cover the whole of the East Ayrshire area as shown on the map below:

Map of East Ayrshire



2. SUMMARY OF 2022-23 WORK PLAN

The table below summarises the work which will be undertaken in 2022, which is set out in detail throughout this report.

Table 1: Detailed work Programme 2022

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Quarter 1 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise Proposed LDP2 and associated documents, including Environmental Report and report to Council Committee |
| Quarter 2 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake neighbour notification exercise in relation to Proposed LDP2 development opportunity sites Publish Proposed Plan and supporting documents for consultation |
| Quarter 3 & 4 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider representations Prepare Schedule 4 forms for all unresolved issues to be submitted for Examination Prepare supporting documents to be submitted alongside Schedule 4 forms for Examination Submit Schedule 4 forms and supporting documents to Scottish Ministers for Examination |
| Quarter 4 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination Preparation of supplementary and non-statutory planning guidance. |

3. EAST AYRSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017

3.1 The East Ayrshire Local Development Plan was adopted on 3 April 2017. The Action Programme associated with the Plan was updated in 2019. It was submitted to Scottish Ministers and can be viewed on the Council's website. The Action Programme will be updated in 2022.

3.2 The LDP 2017 refers to several pieces of Supplementary Guidance that required to be produced to support the policies of the Plan. These documents are clearly linked to policies within the Plan, are therefore statutory in nature and form part of the Development Plan. As per table 2 below, these have all now been produced and adopted. In addition, several non-statutory pieces of planning guidance have been produced.

Table 2: Supplementary Guidance and Planning Guidance

| Statutory Supplementary Guidance | Non-statutory planning guidance |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Developer Contributions (2017) | Community benefits from wind energy development (2017) |
| Affordable Housing (2017) | Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy (2014) |
| Financial Guarantees (2021) | Knockroon Design code (2010) |

| | |
|---|---|
| Planning for Wind Energy (2017) | Ayrshire Landscape Wind Capacity Study (2013) |
| Heat Generation (2017) | Bank Street / John Finnie Street Conservation Area Management Plan (2007) |
| Dark Sky Park Lighting (2017) | Catrine Conservation Area appraisals (2005) |
| Public and private green infrastructure / open space standards (2017) | Galston Conservation Area appraisal (2014) |
| Shop front design guidance (2017) | Cumnock Conservation Area appraisal (2009) |
| Display of Advertisements design guidance (2017) | Dalmellington Conservation Area appraisal (2017) |
| Production of Masterplans (2017) | Green infrastructure strategy (2015) |
| Housing Market Areas (2018) | Waterside (Doon Valley) Conservation Area appraisal (2018) |
| Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (2018) | East Ayrshire Landscape Wind Capacity Study (2018) |
| Housing in the Countryside (2018) | Mauchline Conservation Area appraisal (2019) |
| Householder design guidance (2018) | Piersland Park (Kilmarnock) Conservation Area Appraisal (2021) |
| Newmilns and Greenholm Placemaking Map and Action Programme (2018) | Piersland Park (Kilmarnock) Design Guidance (2021) |
| Catrine Placemaking Map and Action Programme (2019) | |
| Ochiltree Placemaking Map and Action Programme (2019) | |
| New Cumnock Placemaking (2020) | |
| Dalrymple, Skeldon Mills and Hollybush (2020) | |

3.3 The LDP 2017 contains placemaking maps for Kilmarnock, Cumnock, Galston, Stewarton and Dalmellington. They set out projects and proposals that will help make the settlements as successful as they can be. Within the LDP, the Council makes a commitment to prepare placemaking maps for the rest of East Ayrshire's settlements and sets out a timetable for this in the Action Programme. The placemaking maps will be adopted as statutory supplementary guidance and will become part of the LDP.

3.4 Table 3 below shows the indicative timetable for the production of remaining placemaking maps. The timetable is subject to change and dependent on both the willingness of communities to get involved and the work of the Council's Vibrant Communities team, which is working with communities to prepare Community-led Action Plans. Progress in preparing

the maps has been affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic and the measures implemented to manage it. However, progress is now being made although certain restrictions will continue to have an effect on how the maps are prepared throughout 2022. The indicative programme is set out in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Indicative programme for placemaking maps

| Year | Settlement | |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Complete | Newmilns and Greenholm | Catrine |
| | Ochiltree | New Cumnock |
| | Dalrymple, Skeldon and Hollybush | |
| Underway (2022-23) | North West Kilmarnock | Kilmaurs |
| | Mauchline | Darvel and Priestland |
| | Auchinleck | Kilmarnock town centre |
| 2023 | Galston | Dalmellington, Waterside & Bellsbank |
| | Patna and Polnessan | Netherthird, Craigens and Skerrington |
| | Dunlop and Lugton | Fenwick and Laigh Fenwick |
| | Drongan, Rankinston, Stair, Hayhill, Sinclairston and Coalhall | Logan, Lugar and Cronberry |
| | Stewarton | Kilmarnock - New Farm Loch |
| | Gatehead | Kilmarnock - Shortlees, Bellfield, Caprington & Riccarton |
| 2024 | Moscow and Waterside | Kilmarnock – Bonnyton, Grange and Howard |
| | Burnside, Leggate, Connel Park and Bank Glen | Cumnock |
| | Patna & Polnessan | Hurlford & Crookedholm |
| | Muirkirk | Kilmarnock - South Craigs |
| | Ochiltree & Skares | Crosshouse & Knockentiber |
| | Sorn and Auchencloigh | |

4. EAST AYRSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020

4.1 The Minerals Local Development Plan (MLDP) was adopted on 13 January 2020. The MLDP will be accompanied by 4 pieces of statutory supplementary guidance and non-statutory planning guidance, as described in the table below.

Table 4: Minerals Plan Statutory Supplementary Guidance/Non-statutory Planning Guidance

| Title | Statutory/Non-statutory | Progress/Timescale for Production |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Peat, Excess Soils and Sewage Sludge | Non-statutory | Adopted (2021) |
| Community Benefits for Minerals | Non-statutory | Adopted (2021) |
| Financial Guarantees | Statutory | Adopted (2021) |
| Strategic Woodland Creation | Non-statutory | To be adopted 2022 |

4.2 Work has been progressed on the Strategic Woodland Creation Guidance during 2021, in particular a landscape sensitivity assessment has been completed for the pilot area. The Council will seek to build on this work and produce the guidance document, in collaboration with Scottish Forestry in 2022.

4.3 The Action Programme associated with the Minerals Local Development Plan was approved by Cabinet in March 2020. Scottish Ministers subsequently approved the Action Programme and it is available to view on the Council's website. It will be reviewed and updated in spring 2022.

5. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2

5.1 Work has commenced on the preparation of the East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) which will, for the first time, incorporate all minerals related matters.

5.2 As reported in previous Development Plan Scheme's, the early stages of the plan process were delayed due to uncertainties around the final content and timescale for implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. With the Act receiving royal assent in summer of 2019, the content of the Act is now confirmed in statute.

5.3 The Scottish Government in September 2019 published its post-bill work programme, which has had significant implications for the preparation of East Ayrshire's LDP2. Much of the post bill work had been paused as a result of the Covid-19 emergency. However, this work re-commenced in 2021.

5.4 Further to the previously published work programme, in October 2020, the Scottish Government issued draft transitional arrangements. However due to the ongoing Covid-19 emergency the draft transitional arrangements have since been revised and now indicate that Local Development Plans can continue to be progressed and adopted under existing procedures (as defined by the 1997 Planning Act, updated by the 2006 Planning Act) if the

Proposed Local Development Plan is published for consultation **by June 2022**. LDPs that have not reached Proposed Plan consultation stage by June 2022 will be subject to the new procedures and requirements brought forward by the 2019 Act. In other words, the LDP process will have to re-start from the beginning. The latest guidance affords the Planning Authority slightly more time to prepare the Proposed Plan.

5.5 As the current adopted East Ayrshire LDP reaches its intended 5-year lifespan in March 2022, it remains important that LDP2 is not delayed further. LDP2 will therefore continue to be taken forward under the legislation currently in force, with a Proposed Plan being ready for consultation before June 2022.

5.6 Critical to the preparation of LDP2 is the work to advance National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Changes brought forward by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (the “2019 Act”) mean that NPF4 will have a heightened status compared to previous NPFs, and it will for the first time form part of the statutory development plan. The draft NPF4 was laid in Parliament in November 2021. Since its publication, modifications have been made to the Proposed Plan to ensure that the Proposed Plan closely aligns with NPF4.

Proposed Plan

5.8 As stated in paragraphs 5.4 and 5.5 above, the Proposed Plan will require to be at consultation stage by the second quarter of 2022 to meet the deadline detailed in the transitional guidance prepared for the 2019 Planning Act. These are firm deadlines and any slippage would have serious consequences for the plan making process i.e. LDP2 would have to be prepared under the 2019 legislation, effectively meaning preparation would need to the start of the new procedures (which have yet to be published). This will be avoided as far as possible.

5.9 The preparation of the Proposed Plan commenced in the fourth quarter of 2020 and is now near completion. The Proposed Plan will be considered by Council in the first quarter of 2022 and consulted upon in the second quarter of 2022. The following details the most significant work that has been undertaken to prepare the Proposed Plan:

- It has been prepared to align with Draft NPF4 and the development of local proposals that respond imaginatively to national and global trends including climate change, energy decarbonisation and changes in transport technology.
- Collation of data and information to enable the plan to respond proactively and creatively within a number of key development locations including the area around the Bellfield Interchange area (Kilmarnock), Ayrshire Growth Deal locations, Stewarton (taking account of its infrastructure and service constraints) and Kilmarnock town centre and immediately surrounding areas, where issues of flooding and vacant land have been addressed.
- Public and sectoral engagement has taken place remotely during the course of 2021 and 2022 with elected members, local community groups, key Council Services and Key Agency groups.
- An evidence base has been developed to inform the Proposed Plan’s spatial strategy, policy framework and proposals. Studies have been prepared to ensure that the most up to date and accurate information is available include, but are not be limited to, a review of industrial and business land, housing land supply, sensitive landscape areas,

garden and designed landscapes and the preparation of a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

5.10 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being carried out for LDP2. Work commenced during preparation of the Main Issues Report (MIR) and will continue throughout the preparation process and will not be complete until the plan is adopted. The SEA ensures that environmental considerations are integral to the plan making process from the outset. Where environmental impacts are identified, the SEA will identify mitigation measures that should be incorporated within the Plan. The SEA process is open and transparent; at key stages the public and statutory consultation authorities will be able to comment on the process and see how their comments help shape the SEA and plan making process.

Timetable

5.11 Table 6 below details the various stages that require to be undertaken in the preparation of LDP2 and the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment and sets out a basic timetable for the production of the plan. As noted in the table, early preparation work commenced in 2019.

Table 6: LDP2 and SEA timetable

| | Year/Month | LDP2 Process | SEA Process |
|------|------------|---|---|
| 2019 | | LDP2 Member Officer Working Group established and operational | Scoping report prepared |
| | | Main Issues Report Prepared | Environmental Assessment of Main Issues Report prepared |
| | | Monitoring Statement prepared | Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Main Issues Report prepared |
| 2020 | Quarter 2 | Consideration of Main Issues Report and Monitoring Statement at Council Executive Committee | Interim Environmental Report submitted to Cabinet, in conjunction with MIR and Monitoring Statement. |
| | Quarter 3 | Engagement and public consultation on MIR | Interim Environmental Report submitted to consultation authorities and issued for public consultation Publish HRA and/or Appropriate Assessment where necessary and submit to SNH. |
| | Quarter 3 | Analysis of responses to MIR | |
| | Quarter 4 | Preparation of Proposed Plan | Preparation of updated Environmental Report taking |

| | | | |
|------|-------------|--|--|
| | | | account of emerging Proposed Plan |
| 2021 | Quarter 1 | Preparation of Proposed Plan Continued | Preparation of updated Environmental Report taking account of emerging Proposed Plan |
| | Quarter 2 | | |
| | Quarter 3 | | |
| | Quarter 4 | | |
| 2022 | Quarter 1 | Proposed Plan approved by Council (March 2021) | Environmental Report approved by Council |
| | Quarter 2 | Publication of the Proposed Plan and Consultation (May 2022 – June 2022) | Publish updated Habitats Regulations Appraisal Consultation on Environmental Report |
| | Quarter 3-4 | Prepare Note of representations, Summary of unresolved issues and Report of Conformity with Participation Statement Consider responses Committee(s) Submit to Scottish Ministers Proposed Plan Proposed Action Programme, Report of Conformity with Participation Statement, and Note of Representations and how taken account Publicise submission of Plan | Submit HRA record to Ministers |
| | Quarter 4 | Examination Preparation of supplementary and non-statutory planning guidance. | Examination |
| 2023 | Quarter 1 | Examination | Examination |
| | Quarter 2 | Examination Report published and submitted to planning authority. | |
| | Quarter 3 | Planning authority considers recommendations and prepares Modifications, Proposed Plan as modified and Statement of Explanation for not accepting any recommendations. | Environmentally appraise modified Plan. Carry out Appropriate Assessment of modified Plan if required. |

| | | | |
|--|-----------|--|---|
| | | Publish Modifications and Proposed Plan as modified. Advertise intention to adopt Plan. Send Ministers the Proposed Plan as modified etc | Ministers publish revised Environmental Report (and revised HRA Record) if required |
| | | Planning authority adopts plan | Publish Post-Adoption SEA Statement and submit to SEA Gateway |
| | Quarter 4 | Publish Action Programme | Post-adoption statement prepared |

PARTICIPATION STATEMENT FOR LDP2

5.12 The Council is keen to ensure that all interested individuals, bodies and organisations are given ample opportunity to contribute to the LDP2 preparation process. The Council does, however, have to balance this with the resources available to undertake engagement and consultation as well as restrictions in place as a result of Covid-19. The following steps have been, and will be undertaken in the preparation of the East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2.

Preparation of LDP2 Evidence Base and Proposed Plan

5.13 In line with the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008, the Council has continued to prepare the Proposed Plan throughout 2021 and Quarter 1 of 2022. In tandem with this, a Member-Officer Working Group (MOWG) was established in 2019 and has met regularly throughout the development plan preparation process from 2019 and to early 2022 to ensure effective early and ongoing involvement in the plan preparation process by elected members and officers from a range of relevant departments across the Council and Community Planning partner organisations. The MOWG has assisted in shaping the Proposed Plan.

An outline of the work which will be carried out, in order, and thereafter presented to MOWG this year is set out in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Detailed work Programme for 2022.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Quarter 1 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise Proposed LDP2 and associated documents, including Environmental Report and report to Council Committee |
| Quarter 2 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake neighbour notification exercise in relation to Proposed LDP2 development opportunity sites Publish Proposed Plan and supporting documents for consultation |
| Quarter 3 & 4 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider representations Prepare Schedule 4 forms for all unresolved issues to be submitted for Examination Prepare supporting documents to be submitted alongside Schedule 4 forms for Examination |

| | |
|----------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Schedule 4 forms and supporting documents to Scottish Ministers for Examination |
| Quarter 4 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination • Preparation of supplementary and non-statutory planning guidance. |

KEY AGENCIES GROUP

5.22 The Key Agencies are bodies specified by Scottish Ministers who are under a duty to co-operate with planning authorities throughout the development planning process. The Key Agencies are defined in the regulations as:

- Nature Scot (formerly SNH);
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
- Scottish Water;
- Scottish Enterprise; and
- Health Boards.

In addition, the following bodies, whilst not key agencies have the same level of involvement:

- Historic Environment Scotland;
- Transport Scotland; and
- Forest Land Scotland.

5.23 The Key Agencies Group (KAG) incorporates all of the organisations listed above and they agreed to meet with the Development Planning Team of the Council. As a group they work collaboratively, rather than as individual agencies. It has been agreed with the KAG that it should concentrate its work on two specific areas: South Central Kilmarnock and Stewarton.

5.24 The KAG has provided support for the Council to work collaboratively with them and the Council's stakeholders including local communities to help deliver, once the pandemic has passed, a Green Recovery. The Council and the KAG have worked together successfully to agree a shared perspective which has been underpinned by sound evidence to help ensure that our places and communities evolve so that they are able to embrace change in a way that brings not only economic but also long term social and environmental benefits. The early and continued engagement of the KAG has significantly improved place outcomes and has provide opportunities to align resources more effectively and bring greater certainty for communities.

5.25 Along with the KAG, further consultation has taken place throughout 2021 and 2022 on matters related to Stewarton and Kilmarnock and have informed the Stewarton Development Strategy and the Kilmarnock town centre and south central Kilmarnock Development Framework. In Stewarton and Kilmarnock only, further public consultation has taken place to assist in producing the development framework and strategy. The format of engagement with the KAG and other stakeholders took place online due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Consultation and Community Engagement on the Proposed Plan and Environmental Report

5.26 The Proposed Plan and accompanying documentation will be formally consulted on for a period of 8 weeks. The following steps will be taken after publication of the Proposed Plan to ensure that the maximum amount of people and organisations can put across their views.

- i. Press release in all local newspapers circulating within East Ayrshire, and on the Council's web site and the Local Development Plan team's mailing list, advising people of the consultation period.
- ii. A social media engagement strategy will be implemented, in conjunction with the Council's communications team. Given the considerable reach and potential audience of social media, increased emphasis will be given to using this medium as an engagement tool. In particular, this will be targeted at hard to reach groups including young people and families with children.
- iii. All Council Depute Chief Executives and Heads of Service, the Health and Social Care Partnership and Locality Planning Groups together with all Community Councils within the local authority area will be contacted individually for their views. If requested, officers will attend meetings (either virtually or personally if circumstances allow) of individual community councils.
- iv. All key agencies and other interested organisation and stakeholders, including Scottish Ministers, Scottish Forestry and Land Scotland and Transport Scotland will be consulted.
- v. All persons/bodies/organisations that made representation on or lodged objections to the East Ayrshire Local Development Plan (2017) or Minerals Local Development Plan (2020) will be contacted for their views on the documents. A database of all interested parties will be built up over time and used for every consultation undertaken in the plan preparation process.
- vi. Workshop sessions will be held in various locations, however where necessary, more emphasis will be placed upon holding these events virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic and to ensure public safety. These will be widely advertised to the general public. Community groups in the area, identified through collaboration with the Council's Vibrant Communities team, will be specifically made aware of the events and encouraged to attend. Where possible, events will be held at times which encourage attendance.
- vii. Copies of the documentation will, if at all possible because of the pandemic, be made accessible in all local community libraries and in Council Offices for information and consultation purposes. The documents will however be placed on the Council's website and arrangements will be made for representations on the documents to be submitted to the Council electronically via a dedicated local development plan email address.

5.27 In cases where a proposal for development of a specific site is likely to have a significant effect on the use or amenity of that site or of neighbouring land, formal notification of the preparation of the plan will also be given, in terms of Regulation 14(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008, to the owner, lessee or occupier of any premises situated on that site or to the owner, lessee or occupier of any premises situated on the neighbouring land concerned.

Consultation on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

5.28 The Consultation Authorities (NatureScot, SEPA and Historic Environment Scotland) will be consulted via the SEA Gateway at every stage of the Environmental Report. The Report will also be available for public comment alongside the Proposed Plan. The MOWG has sight of the Environmental Report content to date at every meeting as the Plan is drafted and is invited to comment.

6. EAST AYRSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 3 (LDP3)

6.1 LDP 3 will be prepared in accord with the Planning Scotland Act 2019 which supersedes the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. It is envisaged that LDP3 will need to be in place within 5 years of the new legislation coming into force (when NPF4 is adopted) and therefore it is likely that work on preparing LDP3 will commence soon after the publication of the Proposed LDP2. LDP3 will be a new style local development plan with a 10 year plan period. The plan preparation process will be very different to how previous local development plans have been prepared. Given there is more than a year before LDP2 is expected to be adopted, and taking into account the uncertainty in respect of the content of the finalised regulations, the Council will set out a proposed timetable for LDP3 in the 2023 Development Plan Scheme.

7. REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY AND NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4

Regional Spatial Strategy

7.1 The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a requirement for planning authorities to prepare Regional Spatial Strategies. The Act indicates that strategies will be non-statutory (so will not form part of the Development Plan) but should inform both the NPF and Local Development Plans. It also indicates that they should focus on strategic development, defined as being development that will have an impact on more than one local planning authority.

7.2 The secondary legislation that will help guide the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS's) was published in **September 2021**. The draft NPF4 was published in the fourth quarter of 2021, with the 2019 Act stating that NPF4 should be informed by RSSs. To resolve the conflicted timescales Scottish Government suggested that 'indicative' Regional Spatial

Strategies should be prepared setting out key development priorities and principles, but without the full detail and engagement that would be expected of a full RSS.

7.3 An indicative Ayrshire RSS was approved by the Council's Cabinet in September 2020. It was also approved by North and South Ayrshire Council's as well as the Regional Economic Partnership Board. During the course of 2022, work will commence on the preparation of a final RSS for Ayrshire which will involve further engagement, more detail and more focus on delivery. This work will commence once draft statutory guidance by the Scottish Government on Regional Spatial Strategies is published (due later in 2022). This guidance will be more crucial for informing the East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 3, and therefore approval of the final RSS will be sought in 2023.

Draft National Planning Framework 4

7.5 Draft NPF4 was published in the fourth quarter of 2021, which resulted in a minor delay to the LDP2 programme to ensure that the Plan aligns with the principles of Draft NPF4. NPF4 is due for publication following consultation in June 2022.