



KEY STAGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS

From inception to adoption / approval, a new Local or Structure Plan can take a number of years to make it through the required stages of statutory consultation and inquiry. Throughout the process there are key stages at which the relevant Council or Councils will consider representations by individuals, firms or other bodies. These differ for Local and Structure Plans so these are considered separately below.

Structure Plan

1. Intention to review – when beginning work on the review of a Structure Plan the authority involved must publish notice of their intention to prepare a new plan and invite comments. This is the first opportunity for those with an interest to feed into the process.
2. Consultative Draft - a draft Written Statement is produced, advertised and representations invited. The Council must then consider all representations received. If major changes are proposed, a further period of consultation may be required
3. Finalised Plan – when the Plan reaches this stage the authority submit it to Scottish Ministers for approval but at the same time the plan is placed “on deposit” and a further 6 week period is allowed for objections to the Scottish Ministers.

Local Plan

1. Intention to review (often known as Issues and Options). Follows the same pattern as Structure Plan at this stage.
2. Consultative Draft – again, advertised and representations invited as for Structure Plan. An opportunity to make representations before the proposed plan is fully formed.
3. Finalised Plan – must be advertised and a 6 week period given for objections. Objections must be submitted within the time period and be in writing specifying the method by which the objector wishes their objection to be heard (by written submissions or at the Public Local Inquiry).
4. Public Local Inquiry (PLI) – where an objector sustains their objection to the Local Plan they are given the opportunity to appear or be represented at the PLI (or, if they have proceeded by written submissions their objection will be considered by the Reporter in his Report).
5. Proposed Modifications – following the PLI, the Reporter will submit a Report of his recommendations for any modifications to the Finalised Plan. It is up to the authority which (if any) of these modifications are accepted but they must publish the modifications they propose to make and invite representations on them. Objections to Proposed Modifications can give rise to a second PLI.