

# LEAD PRACTICE PILOT PROJECTS LINKING SPATIAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

effective and coordinated engagement focused on planning for place  
to improve outcomes for residents



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

EVIDENCE

PLAN

DELIVERY

OUTCOMES



West  
Dunbartonshire  
COUNCIL

Partner:  
West Dunbartonshire Council

Contact:  
Antony McGuinness  
Amanda Coulthard

*“West Dunbartonshire Council is excited to be leading this innovative work on aligning spatial and community planning with a focus on planning for place.”*

Richard Cairns  
Strategic Director:  
Regeneration, Environment and Growth



## OVERVIEW

This work is focused on the integration of Community Planning and Development Planning in line with the direction of travel in both the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the Planning (Scotland) Bill.

Following the consultation on the planning review there is an aim to strengthen local development plans (LDPs) and improve their relevance to communities with a greater focus on delivery of place outcomes.

The Planning Bill sets out a new requirement for development plans to better align with community planning objectives and for the LDP to take into account the local outcome improvement plan (LOIP).

This will help to secure greater corporate and community recognition of the role and value of the development plan in supporting and delivering better services.

Closer alignment of spatial (LDP) and community (LOIP) planning also aims to achieve more joined-up and effective community engagement and consistent prioritisation of council and partner policy objectives.

To avoid unnecessary preparation of multiple visions for an area an existing provision for LDPs to provide a vision statement is being replaced with an expectation that the LDP will contribute to the wider vision for an area as set out in the local outcomes improvement plan.

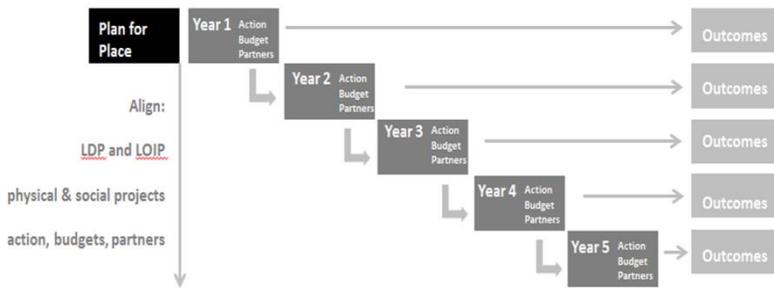
## Key Learning Points

- Focuses planning at a strategic and operational level around Place and brings key council and partner services together to focus on delivering outcomes around a geographical focus.
- Integrated the LOIP, LDP 2 and Locality Plans to ensure all are considered in preparing the statutory development plan.
- Aligned consultations under the ‘Your Place, Your Plan’ approach to community engagement, undertaking joint consultation to reduce fatigue on communities.
- Integrated resources allows for a wider range of skills to be in the same place to engage and deliver around Place.
- LOIP sets a high level spatial planning vision which LDP 2 will take forward.
- The Community Planning WDC Management Board oversee the integration of the community and spatial planning.

# LEAD PRACTICE PILOT PROJECTS LINKING SPATIAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot



*The ambition of this work aligns well with the commitments of Council and our aspiration to be an organisation focused on delivering improved outcomes with our residents. The creation of single local plans focused on communities (geographical) which are recognised by services and residents is a significant step forward on this aspiration and supports the direction of the Planning Bill.*

Richard Cairns

Strategic Director:

Regeneration, Environment and Growth

## Context

The Council has moved to basing everything we do around place. The LOIP is entitled: Plan for Place and sets the direction for how we will take forward what we do around place. The ambition is to make better lives and align budgets around a place-based approach to achieve more. This includes corporate governance and aligning partner / agency budgets. We are firmly behind giving our communities the ability to participate and have a say in their place.

The Local Development Plan 2 will implement the LOIP's spatial planning vision and is firmly about places for people, spaces for investment and destinations to explore – it's about creating places our communities are proud of and identify with; bringing forward our major regeneration sites and creating high quality environments; and its ultimately about creating liveable and walkable neighbourhoods for our citizens.

The LOIP identifies 5 Themes and 6 areas for action. Each area will require specific action / budgets / partner / resource, which will also help to inform the plan for place. Linking the LOIP and LDP 2 will also help to inform the action programme and what each plan takes forward in terms of delivery. Delivering services will achieve more and allow more investment to be levered in to do more.

The Your Place, Your Plan brand encapsulates all our Plans about Place. The initial consultation from our events has led to a better evidence base for the LOIP, Locality Plans and the LDP 2: Proposed Plan. All responses were also considered as responses to the MIR issues where they related.

By undertaking place-based forms of engagement we have integrated how we jointly undertake consultation now using the place standard, place and design panel, design workshops etc. This enables a more visual and integrated discussion about place and enables information to be captured to link into wider areas of work that our Community Planning Partners undertake, as well as, other Council Services.

Our Progress is reported on a regular basis to the Community Planning West Dunbartonshire Management Board; The Community Alliance Board; The Floursihing Delivery & Improvement Group and regular briefings are given to Senior Officers and Elected Members. Currently we are working on the Delivery Strategy for the integration of community and spatial planning as required by the Community Planning Management Board.

At the moment, we are undertaking a small-scale pilot project, as part of the responses we received to the Your Place, Your Plan events, which will both inform the Clydebank Waterfront Locality Plan and will become SG as part of the LDP 2. The project is looking at a specific area within the centre of Clydebank and focussed around the Forth and Clyde Canal. It also has several regeneration opportunities .

The project's main function is take forward our approach to integration and deliver a community led design and capacity building project, which will enable our communities to become up-skilled in discussions around place with the view to them being better equipped to discuss their ideas about place going forward in other plans.

## Key Learning Points (continued)

- Locality Plans will be adopted as SG. A policy framework in LDP 2 will require community views to be taken into account. Locality Plan deliverables will be included within the LDP 2's Action Programme where appropriate.
- The Leader of the Council chairs the CP Partnership Management Board. The Chief Executive supports integration of community and spatial planning. Work is also overseen by the Strategic Director: Regeneration, Economy and Growth.
- The first engagement events to discuss place required more lead in time and clearer communication in marketing what was expected from communities.
- The Place Standard is used to discuss place with communities; there were frustrations experienced with the online version of the tool.
- The Place approach can inform Participatory Budgeting, which in turn can inform the Locality Plans which are live documents
- CP Partners and WDC services have developed skills in e.g. Engagement, Place Standard, Design and Facilitation.
- The LOIP is a 10 year document while the LDP is a 5 year document and other plans/budgets have different timescales. The delivery strategy (in progress) will aim to align consultation and budget review processes where possible.
- The Your Place, Your Plan is based on having a single conversation about place. This requires different techniques for engagement and visualisations.

*The lead practice work aims to test planning review proposals in practice, share learning and inform future guidance beyond the Bill.*