

LEAD PRACTICE PILOT PROJECTS DELIVERY PROGRAMME

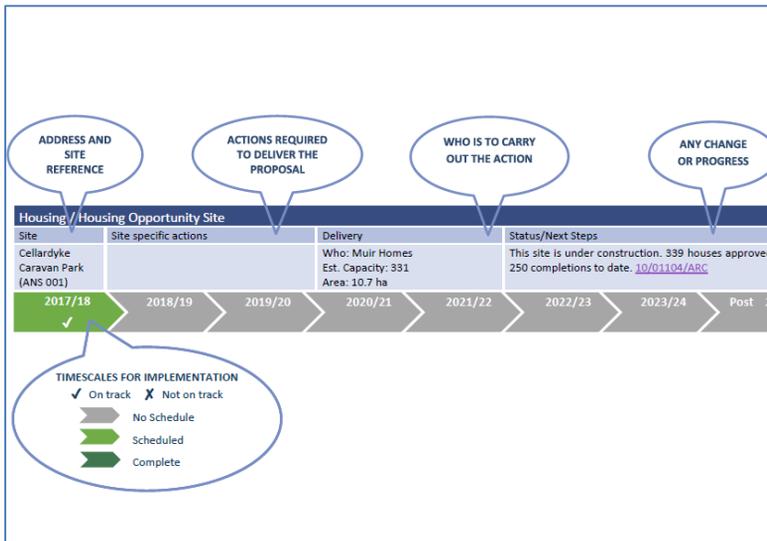
closing the gap between plan proposals and development on the ground
...beyond monitoring actions to delivering the plan and achieving outcomes



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“Fife Council’s participation in the pilot has assisted in the development of our action programme as a first step towards a delivery plan. That will reinforce land use planning within corporate decision making, establish links between community planning and land use development, and introduce more financial information in the LDP’s implementation.”

Keith Winter
Executive Director
Enterprise & Environment, Fife Council

Overview

The consultation on the planning review established that, as they currently exist, action plans lack influence and detail and do not successfully promote a shared commitment to achieving actions that are identified .

There is agreement that the potential to support delivery of the development plan is not presently being realised and should be strengthened.

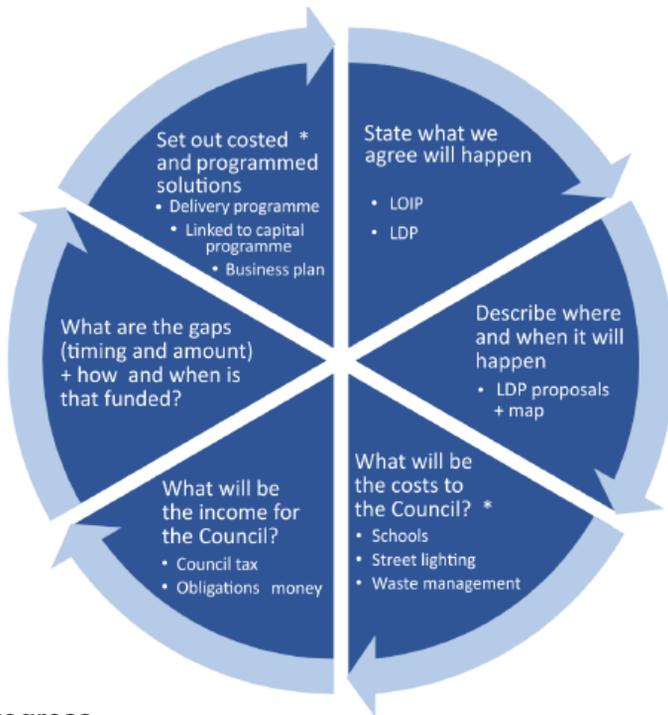
The Planning Bill proposes that Delivery Programmes are a stronger, more accurate description to emphasise their purpose; focusing on delivering the plan and outcomes rather than listing and monitoring actions.

To reinforce and raise awareness of their corporate purpose it is proposed that Delivery Programmes be approved and regularly reviewed by local authorities as a whole, rather than through delegated powers.

Fife Council planning authority agreed to pilot and share their experience as part of this lead practice series to consider how a Delivery Programme can be a valuable means of delivering the Development Plan and how it might also assist corporate governance monitoring and reporting on corporate financial planning.

Key Learning Points

- The project represents an on-going ‘journey’ along which some Authorities are more / less advanced.
- A graphic timeline indicates progress of each project, and permits tracking of its delivery across the plan period.
- The method allows greater scope to engage with the plan and to identify where and when obligations are required and / or become available.
- The delivery programme has potential to act as a corporate governance monitoring mechanism helping to inform capital spend / reporting.
- A future more sophisticated relational data base has scope to filter information to link projects across location (settlements), time (S, M, L) or theme (e.g. infrastructure investment and provision).



“We think the format of the document is well thought out. The introduction of timescales is good to get a perspective on development plans and likely delivery.”

North Dunfermline
Community Group

Progress

Learning captured in this case study represents progress to date. Whilst the pilot project / case study demonstrates positive progress, it also reflects learning gained from practical experience when moving from ‘action’ to ‘delivery’.

The work illustrates planning reform ambition whilst also meeting current legislative requirements, and is therefore both ‘practical’ (meeting current legal requirements) and ‘emblematic’ of wider culture change and partnership working that extends beyond the Bill.

The project scope developed over time:

- the draft ‘template’ evolved from managing project data to reflect wider strategic considerations
- a more joined up approach linked projects/sites to implement a delivery strategy/programme
- the process helps to more confidently ‘tell a story’ of how the plan is delivered – how projects are prioritised and implemented (what / where / when / how / who / why)
- a DP can project manage timing of investment finance
- informing thinking about timing and resources
- How a more corporate approach might be supported.

Work has been informed by wider peer group review.



Summary Considerations

Challenges experienced in developing the work included:

- making the best use of available IT technology
- raising the profile of Delivery Programmes (DPs) as corporate documents
- exploring / communicating scope and potential
- aligning with administrative objectives and political cycles
- Future DPs offer potential to provide a mechanism that monitors how outcomes are being achieved (e.g. link with community planning) aligned to budget review that informs a corporate financial overview
- Partner roles in the process include e.g. ‘sign-up / buy-in’; aligning budget spend; closer links with the LOIP (to achieve economic, environmental and social outcomes).
- Potential exists to indicate the ‘value added’ through planning.