

# The Plan's Objectives

## 1 What are the Plan's Objectives?

The Plan's objectives describe what the Plan wants to achieve for Aberdeenshire.

They deal with the main land use problems and issues in Aberdeenshire including the part within the Cairngorms National Park and also provide the focus for all the contents included in the Plan. This means that every policy and proposal in this Plan should be capable of helping to achieve one or more of these objectives.

## 2 What are they based on?

This Plan is firmly based on the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan, also known as North East Scotland Together (or NEST). Together NEST and this local plan, ALP, form a single "Development Plan" for Aberdeenshire including the part within the Cairngorms National Park. ALP therefore takes on the vision, aims and objectives of NEST as its own. These in turn reflect the following additional documents, where relevant to the main land use problems and issues in Aberdeenshire:

- a) National Planning Policy Guidance.
- b) Planning Advice Notes.
- c) Other plans, documents and strategies produced by Aberdeenshire Council, key agencies, the private sector, community groups and the general public.

## 3 The Development Plan's Objectives

What follows are the 11 objectives of the structure plan, NEST, which are shared by this plan, as part of Aberdeenshire's development plan and apply as relevant to the respective geographical areas for which Aberdeenshire and the Cairngorms National Park have planning responsibility. These objectives are founded on the principles of sustainability that are set out in NEST's vision and aims, and apply equally to this local plan.

### Core Strategic Land Use Objectives

**Objective 1** – To create a long-term sustainable framework of settlements in a hierarchy, which focuses major development on the main settlements in the North East.

**Objective 2** – To integrate land use and transportation and ensure that development is well related to public transport, especially on the main communication corridors.

**Objective 3** – To foster and promote economic diversity and competitiveness, create new economic development opportunities and develop the natural strengths and growth sectors of the business economy, all in accord with sustainable principles.

**Objective 4** – To locate homes, jobs and services in scale with each other and with the role and function of each settlement.

**Objective 5** – To protect, enhance and promote the natural, built and cultural heritage of the North East.

**Objective 6** – To create a long-term framework for the communications network, giving preference to public and freight transport, cycling, walking and telecommunications.

### Locational Objectives

**Objective 7** – To secure a choice of location for a viable supply and adequate variety of land for housing (including *affordable housing*), employment, services and open space, which:

- relates development to each settlement's ability to accommodate it without loss of amenity or identity;
- ensures that the particular use or uses proposed for each site will maximise the overall sustainability of the community;
- gives preference to the use and re-use of sites within existing settlements;
- avoids development in areas at significant risk of flooding, or near other major hazards;
- relates the density of development, when considered with adjoining land uses, to its proximity to services and the transport network;
- will help to regenerate poorer communities and areas.

**Objective 8** – To protect and enhance the vitality of town centres as preferred locations for retail, leisure, community and business functions.

**Objective 9** – To confirm the function and role of Aberdeen's Green Belt.

**Objective 10** – To protect the countryside from development other than what is needed for the rural economy and settlement strategy.

**Objective 11** – To give special protection to international, national and locally designated sites of environmental importance, but also to foster the natural and built environment as a whole.

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