Planning Briefing Note November 2026

Feedback

We welcome your feedback on your experience of Aberdeenshire Council Planning Service, via the National Planning Customer and Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey.



The survey should only take 5 minutes of your time, and all responses are confidential and help us to improve our service.

Link to: Take the survey

The survey is open from 1 October 2026 to 8 January 2027.

This is the third year of this survey which is co-ordinated by the National Planning Improvement Team based in the Improvement Service. Please find the link to view the results from the 2025 survey which captures feedback from these engaging with Planning Authorities across Scotland over the past year and compare how these experiences have changed since the previous year. The results inform discussions on how we can collectively improve customer care across Planning Authorities in Scotland: National Planning Improvement Customer and Stakeholder Survey Results 2025: National Analysis

The survey is part of the wider work being undertaken through the pilot National Planning Improvement Framework (NPIF) which has already identified actions to improve in this area.

Agent Forum – date for your diary

Our Agent Forum webinar is scheduled for Tuesday 8th December 10:00 – 12:30. Topics will cover the Open Stace Strategy, policy guidance on access to a single house and small house developments, Policy and Development Management updates. Also, conservation areas and listed buildings, what's the difference? An update on the changes in PD regulations and why they apply to conservation area properties and not listed buildings.

Link to sign up to our **webinar.** If you have any topics that you would like us to include, please let us know and email: pandeadmin@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Incidental and ancillary accommodation guidance

Additional living or business space at your property (incidental and ancillary accommodation) guidance has been developed and is available online. This provides guidance on when planning permission may be needed for annexes, accommodation in existing buildings, garden rooms, caravans and short-term lets within the curtilage of an existing home.

Site visit calling cards

Our site visit protocol has been recently updated to include the introduction of calling cards to let the applicant / homeowner know that a Planning Officer has been on site to carry out a site visit assessment. On the occasions that staff need to access your clients land and are unavailable, the calling card will allow your client to contact us directly to make these arrangements and hopefully reduce the instances of us contacting the relevant agent to arrange a site visit.

Kind regards

Mairi Stewart

Planning Manager