

Auchencairn Community Council

Local Place Plan 2025–2035

Submission Statement

Prepared by Auchencairn Community Council



Purpose of this statement

This document accompanies the Auchencairn Local Place Plan and summarises governance, strategic context, community engagement, Regulation 4 consultation evidence, and contact details for submission to Dumfries and Galloway Council.

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1. Introduction

This Submission Statement forms part of the Local Place Plan submission to Dumfries and Galloway Council and accompanies the Auchencairn Local Place Plan 2025–2035. The plan has been prepared by Auchencairn Community Council as the recognised community body for the area.

Auchencairn is a small rural community with a strong sense of identity, volunteering and neighbourliness. The village benefits from valued community facilities and an exceptional natural setting, and residents have described it as a safe and welcoming place to live. The Local Place Plan covers the village of Auchencairn and its surrounding coastline and countryside within the Auchencairn Community Council boundary.

The plan sets out a community-led vision and a set of priority proposals for the development and use of land in and around Auchencairn over the next 10 years. It identifies opportunities for future action and delivery, while recognising that proposals are non-binding and will require further feasibility work, funding, landowner agreement and, where relevant, further consultation.

Key themes emerging through the plan include:

- homes that meet local needs;
- local workspace and enterprise opportunities;
- safer and more accessible movement;
- a stronger village centre and community hub;
- improved biodiversity and nature connections; and
- improved resilience and energy performance of community buildings.

This Statement is intended to support Auchencairn Community Council's submission of the Local Place Plan for registration. The Local Place Plan and this Statement have been prepared having regard to the Town and Country Planning (Local Place Plans) (Scotland) Regulations 2021, Scottish Government Planning Circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans, and Dumfries and Galloway Council guidance on Local Place Plans.

2. Statement of Compliance

To support registration of the Auchencairn Local Place Plan, this Statement confirms that:

- the plan has been prepared by a recognised community body;
- the plan area is clearly identified;
- the plan includes proposals for the development and use of land;
- regard has been had to the statutory development plan and relevant national and local policy;
- the plan is informed by community engagement and formal consultation;
- the Community Council has set out its view on the level and nature of support for the plan and the basis for that view; and
- evidence of compliance with Regulation 4 is provided.

3. Governance

The Auchencairn Local Place Plan has been prepared by Auchencairn Community Council, the recognised community body responsible for submitting the plan for registration. The plan was developed by a small working group with representatives from local organisations including Auchencairn Climate Transition, Balliol Court Tenants Association and Auchencairn Initiative,

with input from residents and community stakeholders. Dumfries and Galloway Council officers provided guidance during preparation.

The Local Place Plan has been prepared using community resources. It is submitted by Auchencairn Community Council on behalf of the local community and is intended to provide a practical community-led framework for future planning, delivery and discussion.

4. Strategic Context

The Auchencairn Local Place Plan has been prepared having regard to the statutory development plan and relevant national and local planning policy. The plan is intended to complement and inform future planning policy and decision-making, rather than to duplicate or replace it.

National

- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)

Local

- The Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan
- Relevant local and community strategies where appropriate

The proposals in the Local Place Plan align with the broad aims of NPF4, including sustainable place-based development, meeting local housing needs, protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, and improving active travel and local living. The plan adds local detail reflecting the specific circumstances, opportunities and priorities identified in Auchencairn.

5. Community Engagement

Community engagement has been central to the preparation of the Auchencairn Local Place Plan. Engagement was proportionate to the scale and purpose of the plan and sought to capture a wide range of local views to inform the vision, priorities and proposals.

A range of engagement methods was used, including open meetings, informal discussions, and the Place Standard Tool. The Place Standard Tool was made available online and promoted through community networks, events and informal engagement. A total of 124 responses were received, of which 56

provided complete ranked scores across all fourteen themes. The results showed variation across themes, with higher-scoring themes including natural space, identity and belonging, and feeling safe, while lower-scoring themes included movement and transport, traffic and parking, and housing.

Primary school engagement also formed part of the evidence base. Children contributed views on transport and movement, outdoor spaces, facilities and services, and sense of belonging. This helped to broaden the engagement and ensure younger voices were represented in the plan.

The Community Council's view is that there is overall support for the Local Place Plan as a community-led statement of priorities for Auchencairn, while recognising that the level and nature of support varies across individual proposals and themes. That view is based on the Place Standard responses, comments received through community engagement, primary school engagement, and representations received during the formal consultation period.

Following the most recent 28-day consultation on the draft Local Place Plan, representations were considered by the Local Place Plan Working Group and minor amendments were made to improve balance, clarity and accuracy. In particular, wording was refined where necessary to reflect that the evidence shows a range of views on some matters, including housing, workspace and movement, while retaining the overall direction of the plan.

6. Reasons for Amendments Being Sought to the Local Development Plan

The Auchencairn Local Place Plan is intended to inform the preparation of future local development plans and to provide local place-based guidance on community priorities. The plan seeks stronger recognition within the development plan of the following locally identified priorities:

- support for small-scale affordable housing that meets local needs, on appropriate sites within or adjoining the settlement;
- support for small-scale workshop or flexible workspace opportunities;
- improved walking, wheeling and active travel links to key facilities;

- enhancement of the village centre, local public realm and wayfinding;
- protection and enhancement of biodiversity, landscape setting and local character; and
- support for the resilience and long-term viability of key community assets.

These matters are identified in the Local Place Plan as community priorities for further work and consideration. They are not site allocations and do not predetermine future planning applications or other statutory decisions.

7. Evidence of Compliance with Regulation 4

In compliance with legislative requirements, Information Notices were published to inform the community and relevant consultees that a Local Place Plan was being prepared and that the revised draft Local Place Plan was subject to formal consultation.

The Information Notice was first published on 15 November and the period for representations ran for not less than 28 days, closing at midnight on 14 December. A further 28-day consultation on the revised draft Local Place Plan was later undertaken prior to submission and ran from 8 February 2026 to 9 March 2026.

The Information Notice was made publicly available by:

- publication on the Auchencairn community website;
- display within the village;
- distribution through community networks;
- email to neighbouring Community Councils, namely Dundrennan, Buittle, Kirkcudbright and Kelton;
- email to ward councillors, namely Andy McFarlane, John Denerley and Dougie Campbell; and
- direct notification to relevant organisations, including Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Representations received during the consultation periods were considered by the Local Place Plan Working Group and informed minor amendments to the

final Local Place Plan to improve balance, clarity and accuracy, while retaining the overall direction of the plan.

Copies of the Information Notice and associated consultation email evidence are included within the submission pack appendices.

8. Contact Details

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