

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY 22 June, 2012

Present:- Councillors P Argyle (Chair), P Bellarby, N Smith, G Clark
(Substituting for Councillor J Cox) and G Graham (Substituting for
Councillor R Milne)

Apologies:- Councillors J Cox, A Finlayson, R Grant, R Milne and R Thomson.

Officers:- **Strategic Development Planning Authority:** Strategic
Development Plan Manager.
Aberdeen City Council: Head of Planning and Sustainable
Development
Aberdeenshire Council: Head of Planning and Building
Standards, Principal Accountant and Committee Officer (F Brown).

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance. The Chair then highlighted that in terms of Section 2.5 of the Minute of Agreement, the quorum for all meetings should be a minimum of two members from each of the constituent authorities. As the quorum for this meeting had not been achieved it was agreed that members would note the agenda items before them, however, all formal business decisions would be deferred until the next meeting of the SDPA.

Before proceeding, the Chair voiced his disappointment at the poor attendance at both the induction session and the formal meeting and advised those members in attendance that he would write a letter to all members (both substantive and substitutes) to highlight his disappointment. The Chair also noted that he would advise all members that every effort should be made by members to formally submit their apologies if they cannot attend a meeting and he would also emphasise that it was the substantive members responsibility to try to secure named substitutes would be in attendance to ensure future meetings were always quorate.

GOVERNANCE

1. The Authority were advised that as part of the Minute of Agreement, Section 2.3, the Authority were required to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair, not from the same authority whose tenure would not exceed a period of two years. The Authority were advised that Councillor Argyle's period of office would cease prior to the next meeting of the Authority and at that point the Vice Chair would automatically assume the role of Chair. As there was currently no Vice Chair in post, there had been an intention as part of the governance of the current meeting to seek nominations for the position, however, as the meeting was not quorate, it was agreed that this item of business would be deferred until the next meeting of the Authority.

The Authority were then asked to note that as there would be no formally constituted Chair or Vice Chair at the start the next meeting, the Strategic Development Plan Manager would undertake the role of Chair to the Authority at the start of the next meeting and his first item of business would be to seek nominations for the role of Chair and Vice Chair.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) to defer consideration of the appointment of a Chair and Vice Chair to the next meeting of the Authority

- (ii) to agree that the Strategic Development Plan Manager should hold the position of Chair at the next meeting until the nominations and appointments have been made.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF 9 MARCH, 2012

- 2. The Authority had before them the Minute of the Meeting of 9 March, 2012

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) To note the minute and defer ratification to the next meeting of the Authority.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

- 3. There had been circulated a report by the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan Manager which informed the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) of the proposed draft responses to two recent Scottish Government consultations. While it was noted that the SDPA would not be able to submit an endorsed response on behalf of the Authority, the Chair and those members in attendance were in agreement that to ensure a response was submitted by the deadline of 22 June, 2012 that members would be afforded the opportunity to provide any comments directly to the Strategic Development Plan Manager and he would then formulate an officer response which would then be ratified at the next meeting of the SDPA.

The Strategic Development Plan Manager then introduced the report and explained that there had been significant changes to the planning system in Scotland over the last few years and the Scottish Government planned to consolidate the whole process of planning modernisation within Scotland. A statement on planning reform had been debated at the Scottish Parliament on 28 March, 2012 and as part of that debate set out four priorities for the next stage of planning modernisation. A number of consultations were currently being undertaken to enable the Scottish Government to move forward with the next stages of the reform and these were provided as part of Section 3.3 of the report. The Authority were advised that of the five consultations, two of them would have direct relevance to the work of the SDPA, those were:-

- (i) Consultation on Development Plan Examinations
- (ii) Consultation on Development Delivery

The Authority were provided with the draft response to the consultation questions as provided as part of Appendix 1 and 2 and the Chair then advised the Authority that this was their opportunity to make any suggestions or comments which they felt were important as part of an overall Authority response.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) to note the content of the report; and
- (ii) to agree that an unendorsed officer response would be submitted on behalf of the SDPA to ensure that the deadlines were met.

ABERDEEN AIRPORT DRAFT MASTER PLAN 2012

4. There had been circulated a report by the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan Manager which informed the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) of the publication of a draft masterplan for Aberdeen Airport and to agree a response to the consultation exercise.

The Strategic Development Plan Manager introduced the report and advised the Authority that presentations on the Draft Master Plan for Aberdeen Airport had already been provided to both constituent Council's and also at a joint briefing to the SDPA Members and NESTRANS Board. The Master Plan document considered the long term framework for the future development of the airport over a 25-30 year period highlighting major capital projects which had been completed since the last master plan was produced in 2006.

The Authority were further advised that the closing date for all responses to the consultation on the published Aberdeen Airport Draft Master Plan 2012 was 30 June, 2012 and the three main issues identified were:-

- (i) that issues arising from any future need for a further runway extension in the period 2020-2040 should be given early consideration with relevant stakeholders to ensure that, if appropriate, longer-term safeguardings are put in place;
- (ii) that it would be useful for the masterplan to provide more direction to the forthcoming Surface Access Strategy; and
- (iii) that while it is recognised that the activities of the airlines are largely outwith the remit of the airport itself, it is important that particular effort is made where emissions reductions can be made and that the airport needs to build on previous actions and show leadership in addressing the impacts that are under its control or influence to offset the impacts created by the expected growth in passenger numbers.

During discussion members voiced some concern that the consultation document had not considered the need for a fixed passenger link between Dyce railway station and Aberdeen airport up until 2040. The Authority were minded that this was very disappointing when taking into consideration initiatives to encourage greater surface access to the airport and reductions in passengers using their own vehicles rather than public transport.

After due consideration, the Chair advised the Authority that these comments had been taken on board and it was agreed that the Strategic Development Plan Manager would write to the Head of Development at Aberdeen Airport to highlight the SDPA's concerns on this matter.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) To note the report and agreed that the unendorsed consultation response would be circulated to members for comment in advance of submission to the Head of Development at Aberdeen Airport; and
- (ii) A letter would be drafted by the Strategic Plan Manager on behalf of the SDPA which would highlight their concerns over the fixed links between Dyce railway station and Aberdeen Airport.

ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

5. The Authority had before them a report which sought approval from the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) for the publication of the fourth annual report covering the work of SDPA for the financial year 2011/12. The Authority were advised that the draft annual report was provided as part of Appendix 1 of the report and as the meeting was not quorate, it was agreed that the document would be endorsed by the SDPA at their next meeting in September 2012, however, in the meantime the draft version would be published on the SDPA website.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) to note the Annual Report on the work of SDPA for 2011/12 and agree that the unendorsed document would be published on the SDPA website in draft form prior to full ratification at the next meeting of SDPA.

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12

6. The Authority had before them a report by the Treasurer on the SDPA Unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2011/2012. The Unaudited Annual Report and Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 March, 2012 was provided as Appendix 1 of the report.

As the meeting was not quorate, the Authority proposed that the Chair would sign the unendorsed unaudited Statement of Accounts to allow these to be issued to the SDPA's external auditor, with a view to them being presented to the next meeting of the SDPA for ratification.

The Principal Accountant then introduced the report and advised the Authority that when considering the comprehensive income and expenditure statement provided on Page 9 of the report, this showed that the Authority had broken even during the accounting year, however, if they then considered the forward analysis of income and expenditure provided on Page 6 of the report, this showed an excess of £34,000 due to an underspend in staffing costs.

Following discussions the Authority were in agreement that this excess should be returned to the constituent authorities; however, as the meeting was not quorate, this recommendation would be unendorsed until the next meeting of the SDPA. With this in mind it was suggested that both constituent authorities should be advised to ring fence this repayment until the recommendation was endorsed by SDPA to ensure that the money would be available should it need to be repaid in the future.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) To note the unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2011/12 and agree that the Chair would sign the unendorsed Statement of Accounts to allow them to be issued to the SDPA's external auditor and the Controller of Audit with a view to this being ratified at the next SDPA meeting; and
- (ii) To agree the unendorsed return of £34,000 to each Partner Council with a view to this being ratified at the next meeting of the SDPA.

SDPA BULLETIN – JUNE 2012

7. The Authority had before them an SDPA Information Bulletin which provided updated information on a number of issues, namely:-

- Local Development Plans Update
- Other SDPA's
- River Dee Extraction Multi Agency Working Group
- Graphic Communication of Strategic Development Plans
- Strategic Transport Fund
- Carbon Capture and Storage
- Gross Value Added – Aberdeen Growing Through Recession
- Homes for Scotland 2012 Awards
- National Registers of Scotland Population Projections
- Broadband Infrastructure
- Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route
- National Planning Framework 3
- Structure Plan Proposals

During discussion members raised some issues relating to the information presented before them, namely:-

- (i) Concerns were raised with regards to water extraction at the River Dee and whether this would be sufficient as the area's main source of drinking water taking into consideration population growth and possible contamination for the future. Questions were raised as to whether there were any long terms plans for a reservoir for the area?

The Strategic Development Plan Manager advised the Authority that Scottish Natural Heritage had raised concerns in response to the Main Issues Report in late 2011 which had prompted the formation of the Working Group. This had concluded that any impacts on the river were likely to be caused by climate change rather than the impact of new developments in the area. He further advised that there were no long term plans for a reservoir in the area as the cost of infrastructure would be in excess for £50million and through discussions with SEEPA and Scottish Water, this kind of expenditure could not be justified at the current time.

- (ii) Concerns were raised regarding the lack of opportunities for super fast broadband in certain areas and also BT's planed upgrade to a number of exchanges from fibre optic to the cabinet services. However, 93 out of 103 exchanges in Aberdeenshire had not been included in this plan.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) To note the details contained in the SDPA Information Bulletin – June, 2012.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

8. The Authority were advised that following consultation between officers for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire the following dates had been identified within Council diaries for future meetings of the Strategic Development Planning Authority which did not conflict with statutory policy committees:-

Friday 21 September, 2012

Friday 14 December, 2012

Friday 22 March, 2012

The Strategic Development Plan Manager then advised the Authority that there was a requirement for a Seminar to be arranged in late August 2012 to consider the draft Strategic Development Plan. All members from both authorities would be invited to attend.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) to note the proposed meeting dates which would be ratified at the next meeting of the Strategic Development Planning Authority.
- (ii) to note that a seminar would be scheduled to consider the draft Strategic Development Plan

PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson