

Plain English Statement and Information for Potential Participants

1. Study Title and Researcher Details

“Review of Strategic Development Plans” Researchers: Kevin Murray Associates and Glasgow University on behalf of Scottish Government’s Local Government and Communities Directorate.

Contact Kevin Murray Associates: Kevin Murray, 0141 945 3651

Contact Glasgow University: Prof David Adams, 0141 330 6280

2. Invitation paragraph

You are invited to take part in a research study. Before you make a decision, this information will help you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for reading this.

3. What is the purpose of the study?

The research will review the process and content of the strategic development plans (SDPs) around Scotland’s four main city-regions (Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow and Edinburgh).

The project has been commissioned by the Scottish Government, with the intention of reviewing whether the arrangements and processes for the SDPs are fit for purpose, following their introduction through the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006.

Three of the plans have been approved by Scottish Ministers, while the fourth, covering the Aberdeen city-region, is at an advanced stage. This is therefore considered an appropriate time to review both the process and plans.

4. Why have I been chosen?

You have been identified as a stakeholder who has been involved in the process of developing one of the four Strategic Development Plans. We are aiming to gather the experiences of those who have been involved in order to identify at first hand whether the arrangements and processes are fit for purpose.

5. Do I have to take part?

Nobody is required to take part. Participation is entirely voluntary and any participant can withdraw from the study at any time.

6. What will happen to me if I take part?

Participants will be asked to complete a questionnaire, which contains a series of questions that are targeted at groups of stakeholders who have been involved in the Strategic

Development Plan process. The results from this questionnaire will help us gather stakeholder views and identify key themes emerging from the research.

Some participants will be invited to take part in a face to face interview or a telephone interview with one of the researchers. The interviews should not take more than 1 hour. We will ask permission for the interviews to be recorded (audio only) as this will help us analyse the data more effectively. We will record interviews only if participants are happy for us to do so.

Some participants may be invited to take part in a workshop. Four workshops will take place, one at each of the offices of the Strategic Development Plan Authorities. These workshops will form the final part of the research. They will take 3 to 4 hours, usually with lunch provided. Participants will be invited to discuss the key issues which have been raised through the research and consider possible solutions and recommendations to these issues.

7. Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Questionnaires

All participant information gathered through the questionnaire will be aggregated to the level of stakeholder groups. Comments and issues will not be attributed to any named individuals when informing the later stages of the research (the interviews and workshops). Instead, for example where a member of a community council responds this would be reported as: 'community councils considered...' or 'a member of a community council considered that...'

Interviews

Again we do not intend to name individuals. Where it would be helpful to attribute views, we would only use the role/job title of the interviewee (e.g. Land Director, Smith Homes Ltd), but only if we receive your consent for this. Otherwise all material will be treated as anonymous.

Workshop

We will not attribute any material by name or even job title etc, only by the relevant stakeholder group (e.g a representative of the housebuilding industry).

8. What will happen to the results of the research study?

The study will form a report to the Scottish Government. Subsequent academic publications may arise from the research.

9. Who is organising and funding the research?

Scottish Government's Local Government and Communities Directorate.

10. Who has reviewed the study?

Rosie Leven, Principal Planner, Scottish Government's Local Government and Communities Directorate.

11. Contact for Further Information

If participants have any concerns regarding the conduct of the research project you can contact the Glasgow University College of Social Sciences Ethics Officer Dr Valentina Bold, College of Social Sciences Ethics Officer, Valentina.Bold@glasgow.ac.uk