

**STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY  
TOWN HOUSE, ABERDEEN  
THURSDAY 26 JUNE, 2014**

**Present:-** Councillors R Milne (Chair), P J Argyle (Vice Chair), P W Bellarby, J Corall, J B Cox, A Finlayson, R J Merson, N J Smith, R Thomson and B A Topping.

**Officers:-** **Strategic Development Planning Authority:** Strategic Development Plan Manager  
**Aberdeen City Council:** Head of Planning and Sustainable Development and Planning Trainee (G Harrison).  
**Aberdeenshire Council:** Head of Planning and Building Standards, Principal Accountant, Senior Information and Research Officers (M Greig and S Shaw) and Committee Officer (K Macleod).

**DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were intimated.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor A Taylor.

**MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING 12 MARCH, 2014**

1. The Authority had before them the Minute of its previous meeting of 12 March, 2014.

With reference to Item 7 of the Minute an update was provided on Scottish Planning Policy and National Planning Framework 3 which had been published by the Scottish Government on 23 June, 2014.

**The Authority resolved:-**

- (i) To approve the minute as a correct record.

**STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL**

2. The Authority had before them a report by the Strategic Development Plan Manager which informed the Authority of the approval of the Strategic Development Plan and sought agreement for the next steps in the process.

The report advised that Scottish Ministers had approved the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan on 28, March 2014. The decision letter was provided as Appendix 1 to the report and the Strategic Development Plan, incorporating modifications made by Scottish Ministers, was provided as Appendix 2 to the report.

The report detailed the next steps, including the publishing of a Strategic Environment Assessment Post Adoption Statement (Appendix 4), an updated Habitats Regulation Appraisal Record (Appendix 5), an updated Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (Appendix 6) and an updated Action Programme (Appendix 7); the preparation of a Monitoring Report which would be

reported to the next meeting of the SDPA; and the preparation of Supplementary Guidance to support the Strategic Transport Fund and a 'South Peterhead' Development Framework.

**The Authority resolved:-**

- (i) to note the approval of the Strategic Development Plan by Scottish Ministers and its subsequent publication;
- (ii) to agree Appendices 4-7, their online publication on the SDPA website and the publication of a notice in the Press and Journal regarding the SEA Post-Adoption Statement;
- (iii) to note the ongoing preparation of a Monitoring Report to be reported to the next meeting of the SDPA;
- (iv) to agree the interim position regarding the Strategic Transport Fund and the intention to bring back proposals to the next meeting of the SDPA setting out details to take both pieces of Supplementary Guidance forward to adoption as soon as practically possible; and
- (v) to thank the Strategic Development Plan Manager and his team for their work on the Strategic Development Plan.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SDP REVIEW**

3. The Authority had before them a report by the Strategic Development Plan Manager which updated the Authority on the Scottish Government's 'Review of Strategic Development Plans in Scotland'.

The Strategic Development Plan Manager introduced the report and advised that the consultant's report on the review had been published in May 2014 and was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The review report had concluded that the future of Scotland depended largely on meeting common opportunities and challenges which could only be achieved by a strategic approach to development planning. The system of strategic planning introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2006 was seen as still bedding in.

It had been anticipated that Scottish Ministers would outline their response to the findings of the report on 23 June, 2014 but the response was now expected on 27 June. It was therefore proposed that the SDPA considered its own response to the findings at its September meeting once the views of Scottish ministers had been made clear.

**The Authority resolved:-**

- (i) to note the publication of the 'Review of Strategic Development Plans in Scotland' and to consider the findings in more detail once the response of the Scottish Government was clear.

**HOUSING LAND AUDIT 2014**

4. The Authority had before them a report by the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development, Aberdeen City Council and the Head of Planning and Building Standards, Aberdeenshire Council which advised members of the results of the

2014 Housing Land Audit, as provided in Appendix 1 to the report, and its implications for the housing land supply position.

The Authority were advised that the annual Housing Land Audit (HLA) measured the quantity of land available for new housing and that Scottish Government planning policy required that a minimum effective supply of 5 years' worth of land be maintained at all times. It was highlighted that the effective land supply in each of the housing market areas was above the 5 year housing requirement, with 6.2 years supply in the Aberdeen Housing Market Area and 6.6 years supply in the Rural Housing Market Area. This meant that no action needed to be taken beyond the continued implementation of the Structure Plan/Strategic Development Plan and the two Local Development Plans.

**The Authority resolved:-**

- (i) to note the contents of the 2014 Housing Land Audit.

**TAYPLAN MAIN ISSUES REPORT**

- 5. The Authority had before them a report by the Strategic Development Plan Manager which detailed the proposed response to the TAYplan Main Issues Report.

The Strategic Development Plan Manager introduced the report and advised that as the Aberdeen City and Shire SDPA was contiguous with TAYplan the Authority had been consulted on their Main Issues Report, which was provided as Appendix 1 to the report. There were four issues which were considered worthy of a response from the SDPA and these related to increased flexibility to accommodate the housing requirement from one Housing Market Area (HMA) in another HMA within the same council area, new stations, road and rail improvements and carbon capture and storage.

**The Authority resolved:-**

- (i) to agree the report as its response to the TAYplan Main Issues Report.

**SDPA BUDGET MONITORING**

- 6. The Authority had before them a report by the Treasurer of the SDPA which provided the Authority with the budget monitoring position for 2013/14 as at 31 March, 2014 as provided in Appendix 1 of the report.

The report informed the Authority that the costs of the Authority were broadly in line with the budget and detailed underspend in the categories of (1) Supplies and Services and (2) Administration Costs. It was advised that as at 31 March, 2014 Aberdeen City Council had contributed £94,000 and Aberdeenshire Council had contributed £82,000 and that the resulting surplus of net expenditure of £6000 should be split so that each would have paid an equal amount of £85,000.

**The Authority resolved:-**

- (i) to note the budget monitoring position as at 31 March 2014; and
- (ii) to approve the return of surplus income at year end to Aberdeenshire City Council of £9,000 and a recharge of £3,000 to Aberdeenshire Council.

## **UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2013/14**

7. The Authority had before them a report by the Treasurer which sought consideration of the unaudited Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 March, 2014 as provided in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Principal Accountant introduced the report and drew the Authority's attention to the Movement in Reserves Statement which showed there had been no movement in the reserves of £104,000; the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Balance Sheet which detailed the SDPA unaudited financial position as at 31 March, 2014.

### **The Authority resolved:-**

- (i) to note the Unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2013/14 and approve their issue to the Authority's external auditor and the Controller of Audit.

## **SDPA CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

8. The Authority had before them a report by the Strategic Development Plan Manager which detailed proposals for a variation to the implementation of the Minute of Agreement to vary the current and subsequent term of the Chair and Vice Chair so that the transitions would occur at the end of December 2014 and then at the end of June 2017.

### **The Authority resolved:-**

- (i) to refer the report to Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council for agreement of the variation to the implementation of the Minute of Agreement as set out in the report.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

9. Members noted the date of the next meeting as 24 September, 2014.