

## STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER, 2014

**Present:-** Councillors R Milne (Chair), P J Argyle (Vice Chair), P W Bellarby, J B Cox, A Donnelly (substituting for R Thomson), A Finlayson, R J Merson, J Morrison (substituting for R Grant), G Owen (substituting for N J Smith) and B A Topping.

**Officers:-** **Strategic Development Planning Authority:** Strategic Development Plan Manager  
**Nestrans:** Transport Executive (Strategy & Delivery)  
**Aberdeen City Council:** Head of Planning and Sustainable Development.  
**Aberdeenshire Council:** Head of Planning and Building Standards, Principal Accountant, Policy Planner (A Beldowski) and Committee Officer (F Brown).

### DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

No declarations of interest were intimated.

### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors J Corall, R Grant, N J Smith, R Thomson and I Yuill.

### MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING 24 SEPTEMBER, 2014

1. The Authority had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 24 September, 2014.

Under matters arising from the minute, article 6 (resolution 2) the Strategic Development Plan Manager provided the SDPA with a presentation on the progress and actions taken by Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire for improvements in broadband speeds at as June, 2014. The Strategic Development Plan Manager reported that while he had intended to submit a report to the SDPA meeting in December he had decided to wait until March, 2015 to allow him to provide up-to-date information which would incorporate a recent Ofcom report which had assessed broadband speeds in the two authorities and also the outcome of an Audit Scotland report which would be published in February, 2015.

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

- (i) to approve the minute as a correct record;
- (ii) in relation to article 6 to the minute (resolution ii) the Strategic Development to note that a report on improvements to broadband speeds in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire would be presented to the next SDPA meeting in March, 2015;
- (iii) in relation to article 6 to the minute (resolution (iii) to note that Aberdeen City currently has 37 entries in the Buildings at Risk Register (34 of those are classified as 'at risk' and 3 which are classified as 'restoration in progress').

## **DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE – STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND**

2. The Authority had before them a report by the Strategic Development Plan Manager which sought consideration of the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Strategic Transport Fund as presented in Appendix 5 to the report. The Authority were advised that once approved the document would be issued for consultation for a period of 8 weeks beginning 12 December, 2014 until 6 February, 2015 with the results then being presented to the SDPA at their next meeting on 25 March, 2015.

The Strategic Development Plan Manager introduced the report and advised the Authority that the purpose of the report was to replace the 'non statutory' guidance for delivering identified projects through the Strategic Transport Fund with 'statutory' guidance which would formally form part of the development plan and which would strengthen the weight given to the guidance in the decision making process for planning applications, including appeals.

The Strategic Development Plan Manager highlighted a number of corrections to the report, following the last minute finalisation of Appendix 4: Cumulative Transport Appraisal (CTA) Addendum, namely:-

- (i) Section 3.10 – there were no longer any exceptions for cumulative impact from development zones to the intervention areas where new infrastructure was required to address cumulative impact;
- (ii) Section 3.16 – the third sentence which reads “The evidence that does exist would point to a zone just applying to the ‘Ellon’ and ‘Inverurie’ areas (no development is proposed in the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan for the area south of Newtonhill so no separate zone was created for that area for modelling purposes” could no longer be supported by the evidence.

### **The Authority resolved:**

- (i) To issue the draft Supplementary Guidance as presented in (Appendix 5) to the report for consultation for a period of 8 weeks with the results of that consultation being reported to the next meeting of the SDPA in March, 2015;
- (ii) To request a report from the SDPA's Treasurer on the potential for borrowing to front-fund the required infrastructure.

## **SDPA BUDGET MONITORING 2014/15**

3. The Authority had before them a report by the Treasurer of the SDPA which provided the Authority with the Strategic Development Planning Authority budget monitoring and forecast position for 2014/15 as at 31 October, 2014 as provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

### **The Authority resolved:**

- (i) To note the budget monitoring position and forecast outturn as at 31 October, 2014

## **SDPA BULLETIN 2014**

4. The Authority had before them an information bulletin prepared by the Strategic Development Plan Manager which informed members on key issues relating to the work of the Authority where no decisions were currently required.

Details contained within the bulletin included:-

- Strategic Development Plan Update
- Ministerial Changes in the Scottish Government
- Planning Performance Reports
- Other SDPAs
- Scottish Government Review of Strategic Development Plans
- Local Development Plan Update
- Regional Transport Strategy – Active Travel Action Plan
- Household and Population Projections (National Records of Scotland)
- Transport Infrastructure
- City Centre Masterplan
- Good Growth for Cities Index 2014 – Demos /PwC
- Unemployment
- Scotland’s National Marine Plan and Scottish Marine Regions
- Economic Impact of Peterhead Port Expansion
- Aberdeen Harbour Expansion (Nigg Bay Proposal)
- Peterhead Carbon Capture and Storage Proposal

During discussion the Authority made reference to Appendix 1 to the report which provided the assessment of Peterhead Port Authorities expansion plans carried out by Biggar Economics for Scottish Enterprise, Aberdeenshire Council and Peterhead Port Authority. The Authority voiced concerns over the text as presented on Page 15 to the report which suggested that the quality of fresh fish landed at Peterhead harbour would improve with the development of a new fish market at Peterhead. The Authority highlighted that this statement was misleading as the quality of fish landed at Peterhead harbour had always been of the highest standard. It was noted that the development of Peterhead harbour was part of the Aberdeenshire Economic Strategy which along with partner organisations sought to provide alternative options for fish processors and future developments in Peterhead and this would complement the port’s new fish market. The strategy had an objective to maximise the value of seafood and this required a strong processing sector.

### **The Authority resolved:**

- (i) To note the content of the bulletin; and
- (ii) To note that the development of Peterhead harbour would not improve the quality of fresh fish to market but would provide alternative options for fish processors and support the long term future of Peterhead Port.

## **SDPA PROPOSED MEETING DATES 2015/16**

5. The SDPA had before them a list of proposed meeting dates for 2015/2016. All meetings would take place on a Wednesday at 2.00pm and each meeting would be hosted on a rotation basis between Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

- 17 June
- 23 September
- 9 December
- 23 March

The Clerk advised the Authority that the proposed dates for June and December were no longer an option as Nestrans had identified those dates within their diary for 2015 and it was suggested that the Clerk should consult with the Chair and Vice Chair to identify alternative options which would be circulated to all members once agreed.

The Vice Chair then advised the Authority that all members of the SDPA would be invited to attend a Nestrans workshop on Friday 20 February, 2015 to consider key issues for the next Regional Transport Strategy and Strategic Development Plan (and potentially the ACSEF strategy). The workshop would take place in the morning and this would be followed by a meeting of Nestrans in the afternoon.

**The Authority resolved:**

- (i) To agree the following meeting dates:-
  - Wednesday 25 March, 2015
  - Wednesday 23 September, 2015
  - Wednesday 23 March, 2016
- (ii) To ask the Clerk to identify meeting dates in June and December 2015 and then provide those dates to the Chair and Vice Chair for ratification; and
- (iii) To note the date of the Nestrans workshop.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 24 MARCH, 2015**

- 6. The Authority were asked to note that the next scheduled SDPA meeting would take place at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 25 March, 2015 in Committee Room 2, Town House, Aberdeen.

**The Authority resolved:-**

To note the date of the next SDPA meeting.

As this was the last meeting for which Councillor Milne would act as Chair to the SDPA, he extended his thanks to all members of the SDPA for their support during his term of office. He then wished the Vice Chair well in assuming that role from the next meeting in March, 2015 where a new Vice Chair would be duly appointed.

The Vice Chair on behalf of the SDPA expressed his appreciation to the Chair for all his hard work during his term of office.