

**ABERDEEN CITY & SHIRE
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY**

Title : Strategic Development Plan Area Determination

Date : 3 December 2008

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise the Authority of the determination made by Scottish Ministers in relation to an Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan Area.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 25 June 2008, the Scottish Ministers designated four Strategic Development Planning Authorities (SDPA) in Scotland covering Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils and the areas around Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow.
- 2.2 The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 required that the act of designation initiated a three month deadline (i.e. 25 September 2008) for the four SDPAs to submit proposed boundaries for their Strategic Development Plan (SDP) areas. These will form the areas for which the SDPAs will prepare SDPs.
- 2.3 Advice from the Scottish Government on the determination of plan boundaries (among other things relating to SDPAs) was contained in Circular 2/2008 published in April 2008. This advised that a transparent approach should be adopted to the proposing of SDP areas which engaged with relevant interests.
- 2.4 Consultation took place on a draft proposal for the Aberdeen City and Shire SDP area between 18 July and 29 August 2008, with the results of that consultation being reported to the last meeting of the Authority (18 September 2008).
- 2.5 At that meeting it was agreed to submit a proposed boundary to Scottish Ministers, along with a justification and a request that a determination be made by them. The proposed boundary took in the whole of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire except that part of Aberdeenshire within the Cairngorms National Park.

3. Determination

- 3.1 The submission was made to Scottish Ministers on 24 September 2008 and a copy of that submission is attached at Annex 1.
- 3.2 The Strategic Development Plan Team was informed by the Scottish Government on 11 November 2008 that the proposal of the Authority (as submitted) had been accepted by Scottish Ministers.

3.3 A Circular will be published in the near future which confirms this determination. This will be circulated at the meeting if possible, or by email if necessary following the meeting.

4. Consequences of Determination

4.1 The SDP area, as determined by Scottish Ministers, will form the area for which the first SDP in this area will be produced following the conclusion of the current structure plan process.

4.2 However, the 2006 Act allows for the re-determination of boundaries at any point in the future if an SDPA considers that there is merit in an alteration. The process for this re-determination is set out in legislation, although the widely drawn boundary of the SDP area should minimise the need to make use of this provision in future.

5 Recommendation

5.1 It is recommended that this report be noted.

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Annex 1: Submission to Scottish Ministers



Proposal for an Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan Area

**Submission to Scottish Ministers under
s5(1) of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006**

24 September 2008

Proposal for an Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan Area

1. Background

This is the submission of the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority (the SDPA) to Scottish Ministers under s5(1) of the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006. The SDPA was designated by Scottish Ministers under s4 (1) on 25 June 2008 via the Strategic Development Planning Authority Designation (No. 2) (Scotland) Order 2008.

The Deadline for this submission is 25 September 2008. Scottish Government Planning Circular 2/2008 stresses the importance of engagement with relevant interests in the determination of a proposed boundary. This submission has been prepared in the context of the statutory guidance (Circular 2/2008) and has been subject to consultation.

This submission contains:

- a) a plan showing the proposed boundary of the strategic development plan (SDP) area;
- b) a statement in justification of that proposal; and
- c) a request that Scottish Ministers determine the boundary of the SDP area.

While the SDP area will define the boundaries of the area for which a SDP will be prepared, the Circular (para 22) emphasises that “wherever the boundary is drawn, SDPAs and planning authorities adjacent to SDP areas will continue to work together on common issues of concern”.

It is also noted from the legislation (s6(1)) that the SDPA is able to apply for a re-determination of the boundary at any point in the future if it concludes that a material change in circumstances means that the boundary is no longer appropriate.

2. Guidance

The statutory guidance contained in Circular 2/2008 requires a clear and precise boundary to be established, with the suggestion that widely drawn boundaries will be more practical than those that are tightly drawn around cities. It is noted in paragraph 22 that “a SDP boundary that matches up with local authority boundaries is likely to be the simplest solution, still allowing for the focus of the plan content to be on the issues and areas with the greatest cross-boundary implications. The exception will be national parks, which we expect to be excluded from SDP areas.”

3. Proposed Boundary

Following the guidance summarised above, a boundary is proposed which embraces the whole of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire with the exception of that part of Aberdeenshire within the Cairngorms National Park (see Appendices 1 & 2). The area extends to around 5,050 km² and had an estimated population of around 440,000 in 2006.

Appendix 1 presents a map of the proposed SDP area and that part of Aberdeenshire (within the Cairngorms National Park) outwith the proposed area. Appendix 2 presents an inset on an OS base of the boundary between the proposed area and the Cairngorms National Park, between *Creag an Eunan* (338600,819400) and *Gannoch* (349400,787600).

4. Statement of Justification

There are eight factors identified as a justification for the proposed boundary:

- a) Drawing the boundary to follow existing administrative boundaries provides clarity about the area to be covered by the plan.
- b) Including the whole of Aberdeen City and that part of Aberdeenshire outwith the national park will simplify the preparation of local development plans. To propose a boundary which excluded further areas of Aberdeenshire would potentially complicate local development plan coverage in both Aberdeenshire and the National Park. In both cases, part of the area would be covered by an SDP and part excluded.
- c) The Scottish Executive published research in 2002 on the definition of city regions around Scotland's four largest cities. Although this did not seek to go down to the level of detail required for precise definition, it did indicate that the majority of Aberdeenshire did fall within the functional city region.
- d) Drawing this inclusive boundary will help to ensure that the SDP can focus on those issues and areas which raise the most important strategic issues, while limiting the strategic issues which fall outwith the area.
- e) Drawing this inclusive boundary will help to ensure that there is no need to redefine the boundary in the future as a result of economic, social or environmental change.
- f) The boundary would be the same as that currently being used for the preparation of a structure plan for the area.
- g) The Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) have, by a letter dated 9/5/2008 and previously, intimated that they would not wish any part of the National Park to be included within the SDP area. This will enable a local development plan to be prepared for the national park which is coherent as to its contents – this is especially important as the National Park could potentially be covered by two SDPs.
- h) The draft boundary meets the expectations of the Scottish Government as expressed in Circular 2/2008 paragraph 22.

The proposed boundary has been identified on a number of previous occasions by the two Councils and the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Planning Committee as being a pragmatic one which could be justified for the preparation of a strategic development plan.

5. Consultation

Consultation was carried out between 18 July 2008 and 29 August 2008. In addition to a press advert (Appendix 3) and inclusion on the SDPA website (www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk) over 150 copies of the consultation document (Appendix 4) was sent to targeted consultees (Appendix 5).

A total of 18 responses were received to the consultation, 13 were submitted before the deadline and 5 were late. A list of those responding to the consultation is found in Appendix 6 and these can be made available if required.

All responses to the consultation were generally supportive of the approach to the definition of a boundary and its justification. However, four responses (Ballater & Crathie Community Council,

Scottish Enterprise, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Cairngorms National Park Authority) each stressed the importance of taking the Park into account as part of the content for future SDPs. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency noted challenges around the different geographies being used for the SDP, the North East Waste Strategy Area and River Basin Management Planning. Scottish Enterprise expressed the importance of infrastructure to the economic development of the Park area and for appropriate account for this to be taken in future SDPs.

Ballater & Crathie Community Council's concerns relate to a perceived democratic deficit in the Park and that exclusion of the Park could have a negative impact on these communities.

Each of these issues and concerns will be addressed during the preparation of future SDPs through appropriate liaison with the Cairngorms National Park Authority as well as the other neighboring planning authorities.

Neither the boundary or statement of justification has been amended in light of the consultation but the process did highlight issues to be mindful of in the preparation of SDPs.

Both Aberdeen City (Policy & Strategy Committee – 10 June 2008) and Aberdeenshire Council (Infrastructure Services Committee – 21 August 2008) agreed the boundary and justification as proposed.

6. Summary

In summary, the boundary has been proposed taking into account the statutory guidance contained in Circular 2/2008, evidence of the sphere of influence of the city region and the results of consultation. It is logical, straightforward to administer, allows flexibility within the entire city region area, follows existing boundaries and excludes the National Park.

7. Determining the Boundary

The Aberdeen City & Shire SDPA formally request that Scottish Ministers determine the boundary of the SDP area in light of this submission and in accordance with the provisions of the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006.

8. Links

Scottish Executive "City Region Boundaries Study" (2002)

www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/46951/0030606.pdf

Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006

www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2006/pdf/asp_20060017_en.pdf

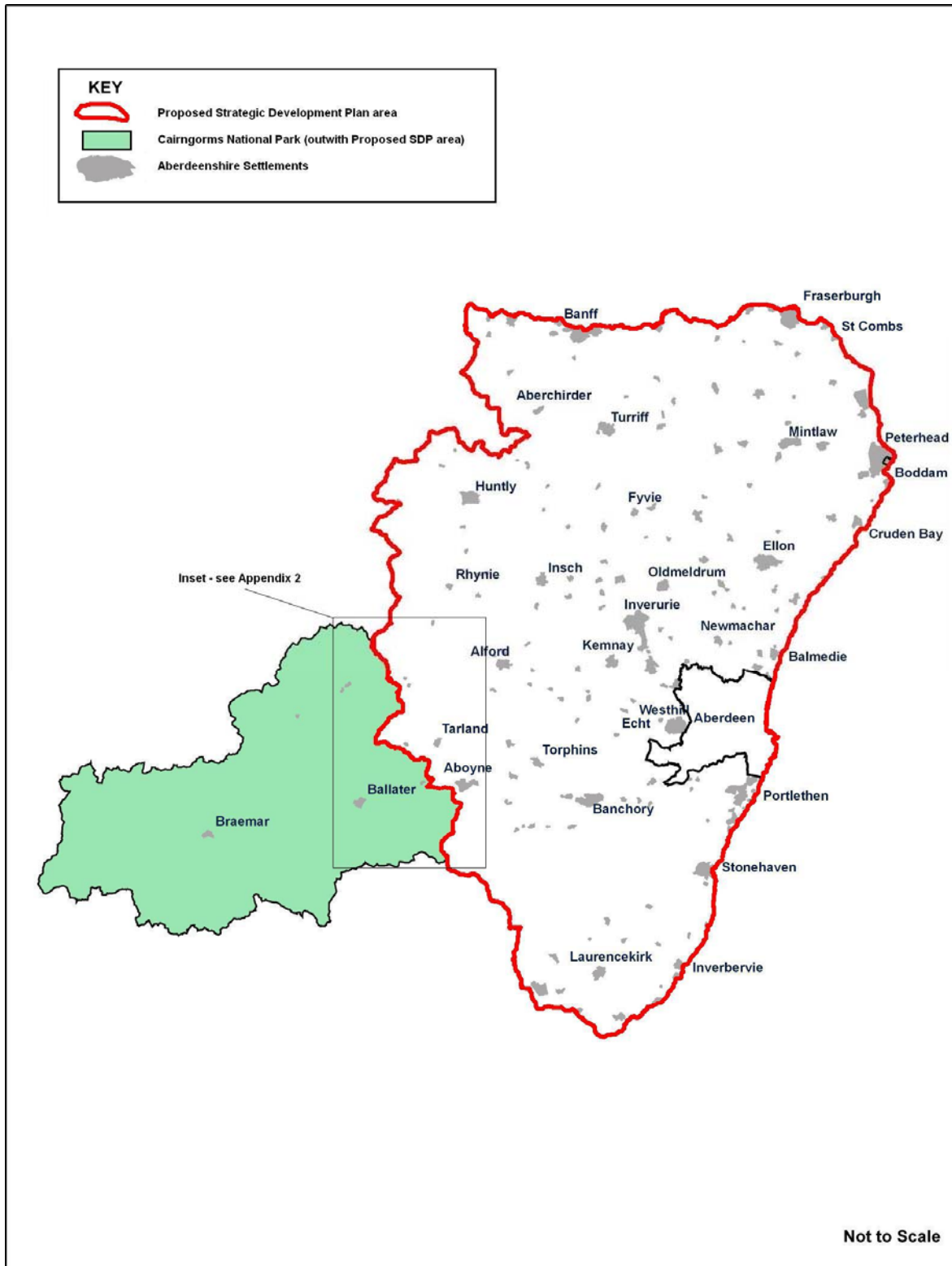
Scottish Government Planning Circular 2/2008

www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/220868/0059416.pdf

Strategic Development Planning Authority Designation (No.2)(Scotland) Order 2008

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2008/ssi_20080196_en_1

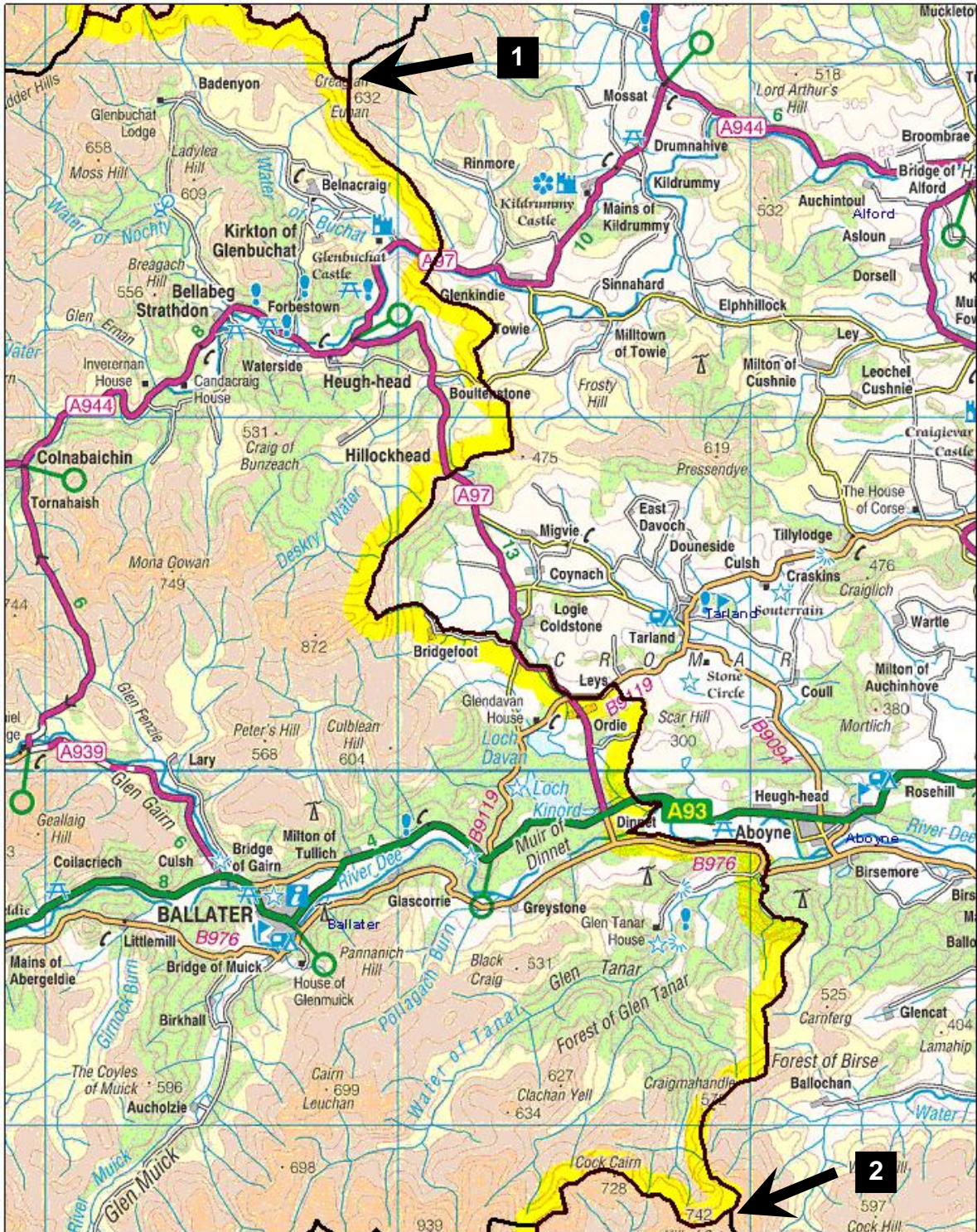
Appendix 1: Proposed SDP Area



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Appendix 2: Boundary with Cairngorms National Park)



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Scale - 1:140000

1	North (Creag an Eunan – 228600,819400)
2	South (Gannoch – 349400,787600)



Appendix 3: Press Advert



Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



DRAFT STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN AREA

The Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA), on behalf of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils, have begun public consultation on a draft proposed Strategic Development Plan area.

The SDPA is required to submit a proposed boundary to Scottish Ministers for their consideration by 25 September 2008. A draft boundary and justification have been proposed which includes the whole of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire but excludes that part of Aberdeenshire within the Cairngorms National Park.

The area, once agreed by Scottish Ministers, will be the area for which strategic development plans are prepared when the current structure plan process is complete. A copy of the consultation document is available on the SDPA website or can be obtained from the Strategic Development Plan Team.

If you would like to express your opinion on the draft boundary and justification, comments must be received by us no later than **5pm on 29 August 2008**. Comments can be posted, faxed, emailed or submitted via the SDPA website.

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18 July 2008

Publication Dates

Newspaper	Date
Press & Journal	18/07/2008
Buchan Observer	22/07/2008
Banffshire Journal	23/07/2008
Fraserburgh Gazette	24/07/2008
Montrose Review	24/07/2008
Deeside Piper Group	25/07/2008
Ellon & District Advertiser	25/07/2008
Ellon times	25/07/2008
Huntly Express	25/07/2008
Inverurie Advertiser	25/07/2008
Kincardineshire Observer	25/07/2008
Mearns Leader	25/07/2008
Turriff & District Advertiser	25/07/2008

Appendix 4: Consultation Document

Appendix 5: Targeted Consultees

- Both Councils (Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council);
- Neighbouring Planning Authorities & other SDPAs;
- Community Councils in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire;
- ‘Key’ and other Agencies; and
- Members of the Key Stakeholder Reference Group

Organisation
Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce
Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Community Councils (101 in total)
Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum
Aberdeen City Council
Aberdeen Civic Forum
Aberdeen Civic Society
Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group
Aberdeen Solicitors Property Centre
Aberdeenshire Council
Angus Council
Architecture and Design Scotland
Cairngorms National Park Authority
Dialogue Youth
Dialogue Youth Information Project
Dundee City Council
Dundee, Perth, Angus and North Fife SDPA
Edinburgh & South East Scotland SDPA
Glasgow & Clyde Valley SDPA
Grampian House Builders Committee
Health and Safety Executive
Highland Council
Historic Scotland
Homes for Scotland
Moray Council
NESTRANS
North East Scotland Waste Strategy Group
North East Waste Partnership
Perth and Kinross Council
Scottish Enterprise
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Government
Scottish Natural Heritage (Grampian)
Scottish Rural Property and Business Association
Scottish Water
Transport Scotland
Youth Dialogue

Appendix 6: Responses to Consultation

The following organisations responded to the consultation on the proposed Strategic Development Plan area:

1. Aberdeen City Council
2. Aberdeen City Council – Planning & Policy for Services to Adults
3. Aberdeenshire Council
4. Aberdeenshire Council – Housing & Community Care
5. Aberdeenshire Council – Transportation & Infrastructure
6. Angus Council
7. Cairngorms National Park Authority
8. Edinburgh & South East Scotland SDPA
9. Dundee, Perth, Angus and North Fife SDPA
10. Glasgow & Clyde Valley SDPA
11. Scottish Enterprise
12. Scottish Water
13. Historic Scotland
14. Scottish Environment Protection Agency
15. NESTRANS
16. Homes for Scotland
17. Ballater & Crathie Community Council
18. Cruden Community Council

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