

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

Date: 17 June 2009

Title : Annual Report 2008-09

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) for the publication of its first Annual Report.

2 Background

2.1 The Minute of Agreement between Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils calls on the SDPA to prepare an annual report on its work.

2.2 The SDPA was designated by Scottish Ministers on 25 June 2008. Although it has yet to be in place for a full 12 months, now is an appropriate point at which to report on its activities up to the end of the financial year 2008/09. This will be the first Annual Report of the SDPA, covering the period from 25 June 2008 – 31 March 2009.

3 The Annual Report

3.1 An annual report is a useful mechanism of summarising a significant amount of information relating to the activities, achievements, composition and financial accounts of an organisation. It is also an opportunity to set down objectives for the next year and how these will be met. The SDPA Annual Report for 2008-09 aims to meet all of these requirements. A draft is attached at Appendix 1.

3.2 The period under review begins in June 2008 with the formal designation of the SDPA by Scottish Ministers and the publication of a draft structure plan and ends with the publication of a finalised structure plan and the SDPA's first statutory development plan scheme.

3.3 Although focusing on the SDPA itself, reference is also made to the work of the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Planning Committee up to 25 June 2008 to provide context to the work and functioning of the SDPA.

3.4 A comprehensive review of the year has been put together as the period covered by the report includes a number of significant milestones in producing the finalised structure plan and other activities of the SDPA to raise its profile as a new organisation and key component of the new planning system.

3.5 The report also charts the reasons for the formation of SDPAs in Scotland and outlines the steps taken in the formation of both the joint authority and officer team.

- 3.6 In an effort to monitor progress over time, it is proposed to develop a set of performance indicators. These will cover the outcomes, outputs and the commitments made in the first development plan scheme regarding how we will work. These will be worked up over the coming months, agreed by the SDPA and progress against them will be reported in the second annual report next year.
- 3.7 Once approved for publication, it is intended that a full graphics version will be produced in-house which will continue with the current branding used in previous publications. It is proposed to limit the print-run to around 300 copies, with the online version being the main means of dissemination to both limit costs and environmental impact.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost of publishing the final document is expected to be around £800.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 It is recommended that the SDPA approve the 2008-09 Annual Report for publication.

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