

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

**Date: 17 June 2009**

**Title : Structure Plan Progress Report**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of progress on the structure plan since the last meeting of the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) on 27 March 2009.

**2 Background**

2.1 At its meeting of 27 March the SDPA were advised that the Finalised Structure Plan had been deposited with Scottish Ministers on 27 February and that the statutory consultation period had commenced.

**3 Progress since 27 March 2009**

3.1 Since the previous meeting of the SDPA, the deadline of 24 April for making representations and objections to Scottish Ministers has passed.

3.2 A small number of representations were received at the SDPA offices and were forwarded to the Scottish Government. A number of organisations made us aware of their support for the structure plan and informed us that they intended to submit a representation to this effect.

3.3 The Scottish Government have collated the responses and made copies available to the team. These can be viewed at the SDPA offices and members of the public can access them on request.

3.4 A total of 245 people and organisations responded to the consultation during the eight week period, with over 50% (128) relating to a single issue - the Third Don Crossing.

3.5 Now that the objection period has closed, Scottish Ministers will decide whether an Examination in Public is required into any part of the plan. In addition to the representations received, Scottish Ministers will consider the plan's fit with Scottish Planning Policy and the National Planning Framework 2 and may propose modifications to the plan and consult on these before the plan is approved.

3.6 It is still believed that approval of the plan is likely to take place before the end of 2009 if an Examination in Public is not required.

## **4. Structure Plan implementation**

- 4.1 The team has been involved in a number of policy topic areas that are being driven at the national, regional or local level, each of which have potential strategic or cross-boundary implications. Early discussions have taken place between officers on the waste supplementary planning guidance and the design review process referred to in the structure plan. In addition, input has been made to the Aberdeenshire Main Issues Reports and liaison with the Scottish Government on the Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative (SSCI).
- 4.2 The structure plan is clear about the importance of regeneration in a number of communities in the North-east. The recent announcement by the Scottish Government regarding the Town Centre Regeneration Fund initiative has highlighted the potential importance that the designation of these areas may have in helping to attract funding to continue work already underway, or to 'kick-start' new projects. The team has been involved in discussions with both Councils regarding potential bids to the fund.
- 4.3 Work has commenced on the preparation of an action programme for the structure plan. This work builds upon the work done throughout the plan preparation process and engagement will be with organisations who will contribute to delivering the plan. Critical to this will be the infrastructure providers in both the public and private sectors.
- 4.4 A draft action programme will be prepared for the next meeting of the SDPA but the final version will not be published until after the structure plan has been approved by Scottish Ministers. The action programme will take each of the action points identified in the plan and give further detail as to the role to be played by the SDPA and others as well as resources and timescales for delivery. This will provide a clear framework against which monitoring will take place.

## **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the SDPA note this report.

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