

**STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY
DRAFT MINUTE
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN
WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE, 2009**

Present:- Councillor Argyle, Vice-Chair; and Councillors, Cormie, Cox, Donnelly (as a substitute for Cllr Milne), Fletcher (as a substitute for Cllr Cassie), Hunter, Jaffrey, Merson, Penny (as a substitute for Cllr Dean), Pratt, Sullivan and Webster.

Apologies:- Councillors Cassie, Dean and Milne.

Officers:- **Strategic Development Planning Team:**
Strategic Development Plan Manager, Senior Planner (L Robertson).
Aberdeenshire Council: Head of Planning Policy and Environment, Head of Finance, Committee Officer.
Aberdeen City Council: Head of Planning and Infrastructure.

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair convened the meeting and indicated to Members that Item 4 on the Agenda had been included as part of Item 2: Planning Update, and Items 7 and 8 had been withdrawn from the Agenda. Item 7 was withdrawn as Aberdeenshire's Main Issues Report was currently out for consultation and it was indicated that it would be appropriate for the SDPA to comment at a later stage. It was indicated that both Councils were providing a response to the Scottish Planning Policy Consultation (Item 8) and this was considered to be sufficient. Officers indicated that they would cross check the responses to ensure they dealt with any comments raised by the SDPA.

1. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY OF 27 MARCH 2009

The Authority had before it a copy of the Minute of Meeting of the Authority of 27 March 2009.

The Authority resolved:- to approve the Minute.

Arising from Item 5 of the minutes, Councillor Fletcher advised that he had raised the issue on VAT with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, who had indicated that the VAT was an issue for Westminster but would investigate the opportunities for reducing bureaucracy.

2. PLANNING UPDATE

There had been circulated a report by the Strategic Development Plan Manager which advised members of the progress on the local development plans for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council's and of other planning issues of interest to the SDPA.

Officers indicated that Aberdeenshire's Local Development Plan Main Issues Report had been approved and was out for public consultation. To date, 20 out of the 24 public meetings had been held and had been well received. Officers at Aberdeen City were currently assessing the 122 options received from the development industry during the development options exercise for the Aberdeen Local Development Plan. A number of public events had taken place for communities to seek further information on the options from those who had submitted them and it was hoped that the Main Issues Report and associated reports would be published in September.

Officers highlighted that the Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative had been launched by the Scottish Government in June 2008. Of the 69 diverse proposals that had been submitted to the SSCI from across Scotland, 7 were in Aberdeen City and Shire area. In May

2009, the Deputy First Minister had announced that 11 of the 68 proposals had been selected as 'exemplar projects' and one of these was a submission at Grandhome and Whitestripes, in Aberdeen City, by the Grandhome Trust.

The Authority resolved:-

- (a) that a strong response to the adaption framework consultation be sent by the Chair, in line with comments detailed in section 9 of the report, and
- (b) to otherwise note the contents of the report.

3. STRUCTURE PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

There had been circulated a report by the Strategic Development Plan Manger which advised members of the progress on the structure plan since the last meeting of the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) on 27 March 2009. A handout was provided to members which detailed a breakdown of the responses received by Scottish Ministers on the consultation and the type of responses. Over half of the responses were on the single issue of the Third Don Crossing, and of the remainder, it was indicated that several of the issues would be dealt with during the local development plan/development bids/options processes. It was also indicated that the draft action programme would be prepared for consideration at the September meeting of the SDPA.

The Authority resolved:- to note the contents of the report.

5. SDPA ANNUAL REPORT

There had been circulated a report by the Strategic Development Plan Manger which sought approval from members for the publication of the first Strategic Development Planning Authority Annual Report. A copy of the Forward of the Annual Report was tabled to members. Officers highlighted that that the Annual report started on 25 June, as this was the date when the SDPA was designated by Scottish Ministers.

During discussion, it was highlighted that the Local Context page needed to be reworded to change the focus of the text and also to highlight that while the area might not have excellent transport links at present as was detailed, this was being addressed for the future. Officers indicated that there were a few minor amendments to make in the Annual Report and Members commented that it would be useful for the section on Membership to highlight the political parties for the substitute members and also detail that the substitutes were only required to attend in the absence of a substantive member.

The Authority resolved:-

to delegate to officers, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, to approve the Annual Report following amendments arising from the discussion as detailed above.

6. SDPA DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

There had been circulated a report by the Treasurer to the Strategic Development Planning Authority, which asked members to note the outturn of the Authority as at March 2009 and sought approval of the draft Statement of Accounts for 2008/2009. A copy of the Foreword to the Statement of Accounts was tabled to members at the meeting.

Officers indicated that the date of the Accounts would run from 25 June 2008 – 31 March 2009, in line with the period covered by the Annual Report. In response to questions it was confirmed that amending the start date did not affect the figures. During discussion it was

suggested that the Accounts be signed by the respective officers from each Council and the Chairman of the Authority.

The Authority resolved :-

- (a) to note the outturn position as at 31 March 2009;
- (b) to approve the unaudited Statement of Accounts for issue to Audit Scotland;
- (c) to agree that the Statement of Accounts covered the from 25 June 2008 to 31 March 2009 in line with the creation of the Authority;
- (d) to agree that the Accounts be signed by the Director of Planning and Environmental Services from Aberdeenshire Council and the Head of Planning and Infrastructure from Aberdeen City Council.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Authority resolved:-

to note the following meeting dates:

18 September 2009, at the Town House,
4 December 2009, at Woodhill House, and
26 March 2009, at the Town House. All meetings to start at 2:00pm.