

**STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN
FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER 2009**

Present:- Councillors Argyle, Chair; Dean Vice-Chair: Boulton, Cormie, Cox, Hunter, McCaig, Merson, G J Clark (as a substitute for Councillor Pratt); Penny (as a substitute for Councillor J Stewart), Sullivan and Webster.

Apologies:- Councillors Pratt and J Stewart.

Officers:- **Strategic Development Planning Team:**
Strategic Development Plan Manager, Senior Planner (B Strachan).
Aberdeenshire Council: Director of Planning and Environmental Services, Head of Planning Policy and Environment, Principal Accountant (Transportation and Infrastructure), Committee Officer.
Aberdeen City Council: Head of Planning and Infrastructure.

1. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY OF 18 SEPTEMBER 2009

The Authority had before it a copy of the Minute of Meeting of the Authority of 18 September 2009.

The Authority resolved:- to approve the Minute.

2. CONSULTATION RESPONSES

There had been circulated a report by the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Plan Manager which informed the Strategic Development Planning Authority's (SDPA) of the response to two recent Scottish Government consultations. These were Scotland's Zero Waste Plan: Consultation and Scottish Planning Policy – Proposed Policy Changes Consultation. The report detailed that any additional comments made by the SDPA could be reported to the Scottish Government.

The report recommended:-

- a) to note the delegated responses to both Scotland's Zero Waste Plan: Consultation and the Scottish Planning Policy – Proposed Policy Changes Consultation; and
- b) to make any additional comments to be forwarded to the Scottish Government.

The Authority resolved:-

to note the delegated responses to both Scotland's Zero Waste Plan: Consultation and the Scottish Planning Policy – Proposed Policy Changes Consultation

3. PROPOSED STRUCTURE PLAN ACTION PROGRAMME

There had been circulated a report by the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Plan Manager which updated Members on the progress with the structure plan action programme and presented an updated version for approval. Officers highlighted that the action programme was a living document and therefore an updated version would be submitted for consideration by the Authority every six months.

In response to questions, Members were advised that the City and Shire were not currently in a position to work in partnership in relation to waste disposal as the City was currently tied into a contract. However Aberdeenshire were currently in a tendering process for their waste disposal and it was anticipated that provisions would be built into their contract, to allow for scope for working with Aberdeen City in future years.

Members also made comment on the need for there to be provisions to ensure that the infrastructure required in developments was in place early, and in response it was highlighted that infrastructure was a broader issue for the area and both Councils were currently going through a process of identifying what would be required to ensure projects were deliverable. Reference was also made to the longer term water and waste needs for the area and that discussion was already taking place with SEPA on the issue.

Questions were asked by Members in relation to a proposal that had been reported in the press regarding a development proposal for the Bridge of Don. In response it was highlighted that it was not a City proposal or therefore was not part of the Main Issues Report, and it was confirmed that should there be any proposals that would have cross-boundary issues for the City and Shire, early engagement would take place with Aberdeenshire officers.

Members also asked that in future the Action Plan Programme should be colour coded, or presented in such a way that clearly highlighted any updates.

The report recommended:-

- a) to note the contents of the report, consider the actions proposed in Appendix 2 and approve the action programme; and
- b) receive reports at least twice a year which both monitor progress with implementation and update it as required.

The Authority resolved:-

- a) to note the contents of the report, and approved the action programme, and
- b) to receive reports at least twice a year which both monitored progress with implementation and updated the Authority as required

4. APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER

There had been circulated a report by the Treasurer which asked the Authority to consider the appointment of the Head of Finance of Aberdeenshire Council to act as Treasurer to the Authority.

The report advised that the Treasurer post was held by the Director of Finance of Aberdeenshire Council, but following recent changes this post no longer existed. The report proposed that the Treasurer be the Head of Finance, who was now the appropriate finance officer in terms of the relevant legislation.

The report recommended:-

to agree the appointment of the Head of Finance of Aberdeenshire Council as Treasurer to the Authority.

The Authority resolved:-

to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

5. SDPA STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

There had been circulated a report by the Treasurer which informed the Authority of the audited Statement of Accounts for 2008/09 and the external auditor's report to Members for 2008/09.

The report recommended to:-

- a) discuss the Statement of Accounts for 2008/09 and the External Auditor's Report;
- b) agree the responses to the external auditor's action plan and that the responsible officers address the issues raised in the action plan, all as set out in the Appendix to the external auditor's report;
- c) agree that a £10 charge for a printed copy of the Statement of Accounts be made and that the accounts can be accessed and downloaded free of charge from the SDPA website;
- d) note that a report monitoring the implementation of the external auditor's recommendations will be presented to the SDPA early in 2010/2011

The Authority resolved:-

- a) to agree the responses to the external auditor's action plan and that the responsible officers address the issues raised in the action plan, all as set out in the Appendix to the external auditor's report;
- b) to agree that a £10 charge for a printed copy of the Statement of Accounts be made and that the accounts can be accessed and downloaded free of charge from the SDPA website;
- c) to note that a report monitoring the implementation of the external auditor's recommendations will be presented to the SDPA early in 2010/2011

6. SDPA FINAL OUTTURN OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09 AND BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10

There had been circulated a report by the Treasurer, which asked the Authority to note the final outturn for 2008/09 and consider the monitoring statement for the 2009/10 budget up to the end of October. The report highlighted that the Authority had to consider the surplus from the previous year and indicated that the Minute of Agreement provided for the surplus to be returned in all, or part, to the Council Partners.

The report recommended:-

- a) the Authority returns an equal share of up to £90,000 of the 2008/09 Council funded surplus to the Council Partners;
- b) to note the financial position as at October and the changes in the forecast to March 2010; and
- c) to note the reduced contribution required from Council Partners for 2009/10.

The Authority resolved:-

to the recommendations as contained in the report.

7. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates for future meetings were **noted**:

Friday 26 March, 2010, 2:00pm, Town House
Friday 18 June, 2010, 10:15am, Woodhill House
Friday 10 September, 2010, 2:00pm, Town House
Friday 3 December, 2010, 2:00pm, Woodhill House
Friday 25 March, 2011, 2:00pm, Town House

8. INFORMATION BULLETIN

There had been circulated for information a copy of the Information Bulletin for Members.

Arising from the Bulletin, questions were asked in relation to the Airport Master Plan and the proposed extension for the length of the runway. Comment was also made on the Plain English award for the Structure Plan and it was noted that it was the first Crystal Mark awarded for a Structure Plan in the UK.