

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

Date: 25 March 2011

Title : SDPA Budget 2011/14

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) to agree a Budget for 2011/12, note the draft budgets for 2012/13 and 2013/14.

2 Background

2.1 The budget for the SDPA was initially considered as part of the Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Council overall budget proposal with a contribution of 50% of the costs to be made by each partner Council.

3 Proposal

3.1 The budget proposal for 2011/14 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report for Members consideration.

3.2 Budgets for 2011/12 onwards are based on recruiting one member of staff to fill the vacant planner post within the team and removing one senior planner post from the budget. However, both councils are currently going through review processes and it would not be prudent to recruit until these are complete. As a consequence, the vacant planner post is not programmed to be filled until October 2011 and the budget has been set accordingly. The two reviews will need to take into account the staffing of the SDPA as well as issues individual to the two councils.

3.3 Members will also be aware that over recent months the SDPA has been working with Nestrans and Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum (ACSEF) to explore ways in which services could be delivered at a lower cost through closer working arrangements. It is now proposed to share office space within the current building in King Street, Aberdeen. This will lead to a saving in property related expenditure of approximately £8k per year to the SDPA.

3.4 Other budget lines have been pared back in light of more recent experience which has resulted in a much reduced contribution from each Partner.

3.5 Budgets for two further years are also provided but these detail only indicative figures at this time. However, they do highlight significant potential costs associated with an examination of the strategic development plan in 2013/14. Greater clarity over the scale of costs for this part of the development plan process will become clearer as other SDPAs go through this process for the first time.

4 Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the SDPA:

- a) agrees the Budget for 2011/12; and
- b) notes the indicative budgets for 2012/13 and 2013/14.

Derek Yule
Treasurer

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