

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

Date: 10 June 2011

Title: Action Programme Update Report

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) with an update on progress with the implementation of the structure plan action programme.

2. Background

2.1 The action programme was agreed by the SDPA in December 2009. A full update was provided to the meeting of 18 June 2010 where it was resolved that in future, at least two reports should be received every year, but that one of these should be an exception report. An exception report was discussed at the meeting of 3 December 2010.

2.2 The cycle outlined above would indicate that a full report should be presented at this meeting and an update at the December 2011 meeting. However, the Regulations require the action programme to be republished every two years and as a consequence, the current report is an update report to enable the cycle of reports to operate on the correct timeframe.

2.3 This report outlines some of the key areas where progress is being made and where the SDPA, as a partner, is driving projects forward. For actions where the progress has been made mainly as a result of the local development plans; these actions are not reported. The progress report can be found in Appendix 1.

2.4 An update on the action programme for National Planning Framework 2 (NPF2) was reported to the SDPA in June 2010, identifying the actions which had been allocated to the SDPA and Nestrans. To assist the Scottish Government, the SDPA and Nestrans have updated each relevant action; this can be found in Appendix 2.

3 Structure Plan Action Programme

3.1 One of the main means of implementation of the structure plan is through the local development plans (LDPs) being prepared by each council. It is significant therefore that these have both now reached the stage where they have been submitted to Scottish Ministers for Examination.

3.2 The SDPA has been actively involved with a number of key projects and within several policy areas. Amongst these are on the issues of affordable housing / housing need and demand assessment (Action 32) and working with Nestrans on putting the plan into practice (37). Contributions have also been made to

discussions on many topics, including housing in regeneration priority areas (27), improving facilities at Peterhead harbour (52), electricity grid upgrades (57) and retailing in Aberdeen (7).

3.3 Following adoption of the development management protocol, officers have also been involved in discussions on a number of proposals identified in the structure plan (Third Don Crossing, AFC Stadium and Peterhead Prison) as well as other major planning applications in both council areas.

3.4 The list below identifies actions where significant progress against identified milestones has been made, with Appendix 1 covering each in more detail.

- Aberdeen within top 25 retail areas in the UK (7)
- Housing in regeneration priority areas (27)
- Quality and design of new development (30)
- Levels of affordable housing (32)
- Structure plan links with regional transport strategy (37)
- Third Don Crossing and other measures (43)
- Park & Ride sites (44)
- Inveramsay Bridge and other A96 improvements (45)
- Road and rail improvements, such as Crossrail (46)
- Aberdeen Airport Masterplan (48)
- Energetica initiative (51)
- Facilities at Peterhead Harbour (52)
- New community stadium (54)
- New Peterhead Prison (56)
- Electricity grid upgrades (57)
- Peterhead Power Station upgrade (58)
- Developer Contributions (60)

3.5 In terms of the exceptions highlighted in the report in December 2010, a number of these have seen some progress, but not achieving the intended milestones. Water-saving technology is one target where progress driven by the Scottish Government will allow the SDP main issues report to consider this in more detail.

3.6 A number of identified transport proposals, including or currently linked to the AWPR, remain as exceptions. The recent hearing in the Court of Session moves these forward, but all parties must wait until a ruling is made before knowing the next steps.

4 NPF2 Action programme

4.1 An update has been provided (Appendix 2) which shows what has been achieved recently against the actions identified in the National Planning Framework's Action Programme.

4.2 Progress has been made against a number of the actions where the SDPA or Nestrans are identified partners. However, a number of actions will be implemented during the preparation of the strategic development plan.

4.3 It is proposed to send Appendix 2 to the Scottish Government to assist in the monitoring of their Action Programme.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that the SDPA:

- a) note the content of this report;
- b) consider the progress on targets highlighted in Appendix 1; and
- c) send Appendix 2 to the Scottish Government to inform their monitoring of the NPF2 Action Programme.

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