

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

**Date: 10 June 2011**

**Title: TAYplan Proposed Strategic Development Plan**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) for a response to the consultation by the TAYplan Strategic Development Planning Authority on their proposed strategic development plan and associated documents.

**2 Background**

2.1 The SDPA [responded](#) to TAYplan in June 2010 in relation to their main issues report and highlighted three issues of potential cross-boundary significance. These related to transport connections (road and rail), housing and affordable housing and the proposed East Coast 400kV upgrade to the electricity grid.

2.2 Meetings with officers from TAYplan have taken place on a number of occasions during the preparation of their plan.

2.3 The consultation period for the proposed strategic development plan runs from 6 June 2011 to 1 August 2011.

**3 TAYplan Proposed Strategic Development Plan**

3.1 The proposed plan is attached at Appendix 1 but is also available online by using the following link to the TAYplan website (<http://www.tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk/1.%20Proposed%20Strategic%20Development%20Plan%202011.pdf>). Also available [online](#) are a range of supporting documents including a proposed action programme.

**Overview**

3.2 The TAYplan proposed strategic development plan is the first to be published in Scotland. It is a concise (24pp) document which sets out a long-term spatial vision for the area (Dundee, Angus, Perth & Kinross and North Fife) until 2032.

3.3 The plan contains a vision, principles, objectives and eight policies covering:

- Location Priorities;
- Shaping Better Quality Places;
- Managing TAYplan's Assets;
- Strategic Development Areas;
- Housing;
- Energy and Waste / Resource Management Infrastructure;
- Town Centres; and
- Delivering the Strategic Development Plan.

- 3.4 The plan covers similar policy material to the Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan (2009), although two features of note are that the plan is policy rather than target driven and that proposals to deliver the plan are largely contained in the proposed action programme rather than referenced in the plan itself (with the exception of those represented on the proposals map (p7)).

### **Transport Connections**

- 3.5 It is welcome that the plan references national transport infrastructure projects in the TAYplan area which will benefit the Aberdeen City and Shire area. These include the proposed electrification of the Aberdeen to Edinburgh rail line, rail enhancements around Montrose and the proposed A90 upgrade in or around Dundee.
- 3.6 However, one proposal identified on the map on page 7 of the plan is for a new rail station to the south of Dundee on the Edinburgh line (Wormit). This had been flagged up in the SDPA's response to the main issues report last year as a matter of potential concern in that it had the potential to act against the desire expressed in National Planning Framework 2, Transport Scotland's Strategic Transport Projects Review and the Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan to see improved journey times between Aberdeen and the Central Belt.
- 3.7 The proposed Action Programme, however, doesn't have a proposal for a new station at this location but an action to undertake a transport appraisal for the Wormit area. It identifies that a STAG appraisal will consider options for improving the transport system in the area which could include public transport improvements (including the provision of a new station) or through improved road schemes.

### **Housing**

- 3.8 The SDPA's response to the main issues report highlighted cross-boundary issues that might arise between Angus and Aberdeenshire relating to the delivery and demand for affordable housing. However, the response recognised that this was an issue better addressed through respective local development plans and it will be for Aberdeenshire to respond to the Angus local development plan in due course if necessary.

### **East Coast Electricity Grid Upgrade**

- 3.5 The plan does not reference this national development identified in National Planning Framework 2 despite it being brought to their attention in the response of the SDPA to the main issues report. It is understood that this is on the basis that decision relating to planning applications (for sub-stations) and Electricity Act consents for the re-insulation of the pylons is likely to be complete by the time the strategic development plan is approved by Scottish Ministers.
- 3.6 While it is considered that the plan would have benefitted from a greater consideration of this and related strategically significant energy infrastructure issues (such as carbon capture and storage), this is not something that would merit an objection from the SDPA but rather it is a matter which could be taken up by the Scottish Government or potential applicants directly if thought necessary.

## **4 Proposed Response**

- 4.1 It is not the role of the SDPA to provide a critique of TAYplan's proposed plan or to make suggestions as to how it might be improved. Rather, its role is to comment on issues of cross-boundary significance which are likely to impact on Aberdeen City and Shire or on the ability of this area to deliver its plan and wider vision for the future.
- 4.2 In light of this it is proposed to respond to raise the issue in relation to the new station south of Dundee (Wormit). The option is open to raise this as an objection to either the proposed plan itself or to the action programme. It is proposed to respond to the action programme in recognition of the fact that the principle of a new station may be acceptable from the perspective of the Aberdeen City and Shire SDPA as long as journey times on the network between Aberdeen and Edinburgh are not compromised. The suggested amendment is to recognise in the "Description and Strategic Fit" section the importance of working within the context of the strategic objective of reducing inter-city journey times. A proposed response in relation to this issue is set out in Appendix 2.
- 4.2 It is not proposed to make any additional comments to either the plan or the 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 agree the proposed response to the TAYplan proposed plan found at Appendix 2.

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