

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY

Woodhill House, Aberdeen
THURSDAY, 15 December, 2011

Present:- Councillor P Argyle, Chairperson; Councillor K Dean, Vice-Chairperson; and Councillors M Boulton, G J Clark (substitute for Councillor Pratt), B Cormie, F McRae, R Merson, M Sullivan and J Webster.

Apologies:- Councillors Corral, Cox, Hunter and Pratt.

Also present:- Transport Executive (Strategy and Delivery), Nestrans.

Officers:- **Strategic Development Planning Authority:** Strategic Development Plan Manager.

Aberdeen City Council: Head of Planning and Sustainable Development

Aberdeenshire Council: Team Leader (Policy), Principal Accountant, Principal Committee Officer, Committee Officer.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked Members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the following declaration was intimated:-

Councillor P Argyle declared an interest in Item 3 of the agenda as a member of the Cairngorms National Park Authority Board. Having declared an interest in this item Councillor Argyle left the meeting during its consideration and determination.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Authority had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 23 September, 2011.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) in relation to article 2 to the minute (resolution i) to note that the Chair had met with Derek Provan from BAA to discuss the proposed benefits of the runway extension. The benefits included the potential to use new aircraft and attract additional routes which would allow the airport to maximise capacity and provide greater flexibility for airlines. The masterplan consultation exercise scheduled to take place in December 2011 had been delayed and it was now expected that this would be undertaken in February/March 2012;
- (ii) in relation to article 4 to the minute (resolution ii) with regard to ongoing discussions regarding wastewater capacity and extraction issues from the River Dee, discussions were still ongoing and a short life working group had been set up to look at these issues which would then report back to the Strategic Development Planning Authority. An update report would be provided at the next SDPA meeting scheduled for March 2012; and
- (iii) to otherwise approve the minute.

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE – DELIVERING IDENTIFIED PROJECTS THROUGH A STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND

2. The Authority had before them a report which sought approval for supplementary planning guidance (SPG) on a strategic transport fund following consultation earlier in the year.

The consultation exercise had closed on 18th November 2011 and 21 responses had been received, with one received outwith the closing date. It was noted that the responses received were generally mixed; however, over half had been broadly supportive of the draft guidance with no obvious polarisation of responses between various interested groups.

The report proposed amendments to the supplementary planning guidance in light of consultation responses and advised that the next steps would be to submit the revised version to both councils for ratification and Nestrans for information in January/February 2012.

The report recommended:-

that the SDPA:-

- (a) note the responses to the draft supplementary planning guidance found in Appendix 2;
- (b) agree the amended supplementary planning guidance as set out in Appendix 3; and
- (c) refer this report to the two councils for ratification and to the Nestrans Board for information.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) to thank the officers involved in preparing the report; and
- (ii) to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY – DRAFT NATIONAL PARK PLAN AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN MAIN ISSUES REPORT

3. The Authority had before it a report which sought approval for a response to the consultation by the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) on their draft National Park Plan and Local Development Plan Main Issues Report.

The purpose of the report was to provide comment on the draft National Park Plan and the Local Development Plain Main Issues Report following the consultation period which ended on 9 December 2011, in particular focusing on the cross boundary issues which arise from both documents. Members were in agreement that both documents raised similar issues and their response would be to the two consultation documents.

There were four elements to the proposed response:-

- (i) highlighting the role of the three regional transport partnerships (RTP's) in transport and transport strategy issues
- (ii) identifying potentially misleading diagrams and the use of current illustrative material from the National Planning Framework 2 or the structure plan
- (iii) highlighting the role of other bodies in delivering high-speed internet connections and the infrastructure to support this
- (iv) welcoming the recognition of water as a key natural resource with impacts outside the park boundary

The report recommended:-

that the Authority agree to send this report to the Cairngorms National Park Authority as its response to the two consultation documents, welcoming the opportunity to comment at this stage and wishing them well as both plans progress to approval / adoption.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) to thank officers involved in preparing the report; and
- (ii) to otherwise approve the recommendations contained in the report.

MODERNISING THE PLANNING SYSTEM – AUDIT SCOTLAND REPORT

4. The Authority had before it a report by the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan Manager which sought to inform the Authority of a recent publication by Audit Scotland on the progress of planning modernisation in Scotland. The report asked members to approve a response to the four recommendations that Audit Scotland made for the four Strategic Development Planning Authorities (SDPAs).

The main recommendations for strategic development planning authorities were provided in Appendix 1 of the report (items 38-48) and the proposed responses to those recommendations from a local perspective for each item was provided in Appendix 2.

The four specific recommendations were:-

- Monitor progress against key milestones and ensure any delays are minimised
- Agree resource requirements with constituent councils and put in place formal arrangements or protocols to support this
- Work with key agencies to develop a shared understanding of roles, responsibilities and expectations
- Ensure processes are in place to enable and support better and more creative engagement with community councils and wider community

Of the four recommendations, members were asked to note that the only recommendation specific to the SPDAs was bullet point 2 (Section 3.3 of the report) as the others applied equally to local development plan preparation in Scotland.

A collective response on behalf of the four SDPAs was proposed to two of Audit Scotland's recommendations where this was the most efficient.

The report recommended:-

that the Authority:-

- (a) note the content of the report (including Appendix 2) and agree to send a letter to the Auditor General as outlined in paragraph 4.4 of the report.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) to thank the officers involved in preparing the report; and
- (ii) to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2010/2011 AND THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY 2010/2011

5. The Authority had before them a report by the Treasurer on the SDPA audited statement of accounts for 2010/2011 and the external auditor's report. The audited statement of accounts for year ending 31st March 2011 was attached in Appendix 1 of the report and issues raised by the auditors have been addressed as part of an action plan included in the appendix to the external auditors report (Appendix 2, page 6, paragraphs 15/16). Overall the report was a very positive report and it was agreed that all recommendations should be addressed by officers within the set timescales.

Members were asked to approve a fee of £10.00 for printed copies of the audited statement of accounts which would be made available for public inspection and sale to interested parties. A download version would also be made available from the SDPA website free of charge.

The report recommended:-

That the Authority:-

- (1) discuss the Statement of Accounts for 2010/2011 and the External Auditor's report;
- (2) agree the responses to the external auditor's action plan and that the responsible officer addresses the issues raised in the action plan, as set out in the Appendix to the external auditor's report; and
- (3) agree a £10 charge for a printed copy of the Statement of Accounts is made and that the accounts can be accessed and downloaded free of charge from the SDPA website.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) to thank the officers involved in preparing the report; and
- (ii) to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

SDPA BUDGET MONITORING TO OCTOBER 2011

6. The Authority had before them a report by the Treasurer on the SDPA Budget Monitoring and forecast position for 2011/2012 as at October 2011. Members were advised that there was nothing untoward contained within the report which projected a slight under spend due to vacant staff positions and accommodation savings.

The report recommended:-

That the Authority note the budget monitoring position and forecast outturn.

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) to thank the officers involved in preparing the report; and
- (ii) to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS (INCLUDING 9TH MARCH 2012)

7. The Authority noted that their next meeting would be held on Friday, 9 March, 2012 at 2.00pm in the Town House, Aberdeen. The Authority agreed that meeting dates for the next calendar year would be considered after the May elections, however, it was agreed one more meeting date should be scheduled and members agreed to a proposed date of 22 June 2012 at Woodhill House. The time would be notified to members in due course.

SDPA BULLETIN

8. The Authority had before them an information bulletin prepared by the Strategic Development Plan Manager which was designed to keep members up to date on issues relating to the work of the Authority where no decisions were currently required.

Details contained in the information bulletin included:-

- Strategic Development Plan Update
- Local Development Plans Update
- Scottish Parliament – Local Government & Regeneration Committee (14 September 2011)
- Scottish Marine Regions and National Marine Plan
- Scoping Study for Offshore Wind Farm Development in Scottish Waters
- Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)
- Government Economic Strategy 2011
- TAYplan Proposed Strategic Development Plan and other SDP progress
- National Planning Framework 2
- UK-Norway Electricity Interconnector
- Structure Plan Proposals
- Housing Market Activity

- A study into the recovery of heat from power generation in Scotland
- SDPA Website Statistics (October 2010 - September 2011)

The Authority resolved:-

- (i) to thank the officers involved in preparing the bulletin; and
- (ii) to note the updates contained within.

PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson