



Minute of the Meeting of the Interim Edinburgh and South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan Joint Committee

**Monday 28 April 2008
in the City Chambers, Edinburgh**

Committee Members Present:

Councillor J Lowrie (Convener), City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor J Mowat, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor P McLennan, East Lothian Council
Councillor R Imrie, Midlothian Council
Councillor O Thompson (substitute for Councillor D Milligan), Midlothian Council
Councillor R De Bold, West Lothian Council
Councillor M Day, West Lothian Council
Councillor V Davidson, Scottish Borders Council
Councillor C Riddell-Carre, Scottish Borders Council
Councillor A Martin, Fife Council
Councillor J Beare, Fife Council

Council Officials Present:

Mr J Inman, City of Edinburgh Council
Mr K Tippen, City of Edinburgh Council
Mr D Kennedy, City of Edinburgh Council
Mr P Collins, East Lothian Council
Mr I Glen, East Lothian Council
Ms J Long, Midlothian Council
Mr I Johnston, Midlothian Council
Mr J Dickson, West Lothian Council
Mr C McCorrison, West Lothian Council
Mr B Frater, Scottish Borders Council
Mr M Wanless, Scottish Borders Council
Ms P Ewen, Fife Council
Mr K Winter, Fife Council

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1 Minute

Decision

The minute of meeting of the Interim Edinburgh and South East of Scotland Strategic Development Plan Joint Committee of 28 January 2008 was approved as a correct record.

2 Strategic Development Plan Authority – Update and Strategic Development Plan – Project Plan

The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 provides for the removal of Structure Plans and the creation of Strategic Development Plans (SDPs). The Act gives Scottish Ministers powers to designate Strategic Development Planning Authorities (SDPAs), which comprise groups of planning authorities working together to prepare these plans.

The Interim Joint Committee considered a report by the Director of City Development, City of Edinburgh Council which updated members on the Scottish Government's timetable for introducing the new Strategic Development Plans (SDP) system.

Ken Tippet (Planning Group Leader, the City of Edinburgh Council) spoke to the report and highlighted the key areas.

The Scottish Government had confirmed that it intended to lay the appropriate designation orders for the Strategic Development Planning Authorities (SDPAs) before Parliament in April, with a view to them coming into force in June 2008. The Government did not propose to change the groupings of Council that were consulted last summer. Subject to Parliamentary approval, SDPA membership would therefore be East Lothian Council, The City of Edinburgh Council, Fife Council, Midlothian Council, Scottish Borders Council and West Lothian Council.

When the designation order comes into force, the SDPA will have a statutory period of three months to submit to Scottish Ministers a plan showing the proposed boundary of the SDP area, together with a justification statement.

The report addressed issues such as start up funding, preparing for the new SDPA, planning the SDP project and building the appropriate team.

To meet the Scottish Government's challenging target for submitting the first city region's SDP to Scottish Ministers, substantial work required to take place in the current financial year, before the new development planning system formally starts. To achieve this, partner Councils will require to consider the

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resource implications and advise the Interim Joint Committee/The Strategic Development Authority of their positions regarding providing the required budgets and staff time.

The Steering Group had also commissioned a project management consultant to help prepare a comprehensive, costed SDP project plan. The Project Initiation Document (PID) was contained in Appendix 1 to the Director's report.

A separate report from Fife Council, minuted at item 3 below, addressed the SDPA boundary issues in more detail.

Decision

- 1) To note the Scottish Government's Strategic Development Plan Authority (SDPA) timetable and endorse the principle that the SDPA be established on the basis of equal voting and equal funding.
- 2) To agree that a small dedicated team/resource be established to support the SDPA and manage Strategic Development Plan (SDP) preparation, and delegates its creation to officers.
- 3) To agree that the Convener of the Interim Strategic Development Plan Joint Committee (Councillor Lowrie) on behalf of the Committee write to Ministers by 31 May 2008 welcoming the start-up funding, confirming the intention to set up a dedicated SDP team/resource and identifying the City of Edinburgh Council as the receiving authority for funds. The Convener's letter, which will be circulated to all partner authorities for comment prior to issue, will also draw attention to significant ongoing additional costs to all Councils.
- 4) To note that officers will now attempt to recruit a permanent project manager and will pursue the staff establishment for the dedicated team/resource.
- 5) To agree that, for practical reasons, the project manager and project team/resource should be based in Edinburgh, with Fife Council being the employing Council.
- 6) To agree that the option of co-locating the project team with SEStran at McDonald Road, Edinburgh be explored and a detailed proposal reported to the next meeting.
- 7) To agree that an interim project co-ordinator be appointed until the permanent project manager is in post.
- 8) To agree the draft project plan (appended to the Director's report) as the basis for the SDP work, subject to periodic review.

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- 9) To note the costs of delivering the first SDP will be significant and invite the constituent Councils to consider the implications and confirm that the required resources will be made available.
- 10) To agree the draft project roles and structures and note the Interim Joint Committee's role in approving key stages.
- 11) To acknowledge the importance of all partner authorities working together to develop the new SDP.
- 12) To agree to hold an additional meeting of the Interim Strategic Development Plan Joint Committee in late June 2008.

(Reference – report by the Director of City Development, City of Edinburgh Council, submitted).

3 Strategic Development Plan Boundary - Update

The Interim Joint Committee considered a report by the Head of Development Services, Fife Council providing background to defining the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) boundary, the process, related timescales and progress to date.

Pamela Ewen (Fife Council) spoke to the report and highlighted the key areas.

The draft regulations issued by the Scottish Government confirmed that the boundary of the Strategic Development Plan area required to be established and informed to the Scottish Ministers by mid/end September 2008.

Discussions with the Steering Group to date had identified informal views that all partner Authorities (with the exception of Fife) considered that the boundary should be aligned with their administrative boundary.

Fife Council will require to identify a boundary given that part of Fife will be within the Edinburgh SDP area and another part within the Dundee SDP area.

Given that a new boundary was required within Fife, a six week consultation was underway with key agencies/organisations (eg SEPA, Scottish Water, SEStran and Scottish Enterprise).

Decision

- 1) To note progress and timescales relating to defining the Strategic Development Plan boundary.

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- 2) To endorse the engagement with relevant interest as detailed in paragraph 2.4 of the report by the Head of Development Services, Fife Council.
- 3) To note that, if possible, a report will be presented to the additional meeting of the Interim Joint Committee in late June 2008 making a recommendation to the six partner authorities on the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) boundary.

(Reference – report by the Head of Development Services, Fife Council, submitted).

4 Scottish Planning Policy 3 (SPP3) Planning for Housing – Consultation

The Interim Joint Committee considered a report by the Director of Planning and Economic Development, Scottish Borders Council which proposed a response to the Scottish Government consultation on the draft Scottish Planning Policy on Housing (SPP3).

Martin Wanless (Scottish Borders Council) spoke to the report and confirmed that all partner authorities had responded individually to the consultation exercise.

Decision

To agree to the comments set out in paragraph 2.12 of the Director's report and Appendix A to the report as the Interim Joint Committee's response to the Scottish Government on draft SPP3 on Planning for Housing.

(Reference – report by the Director of Planning and Economic Development, Scottish Borders Council, submitted).

5 National Planning Framework 2: Consultation

The Interim Joint Committee considered a report by the Director of City Development, City of Edinburgh Council seeking approval of a joint response to a consultation by the Scottish Government on its recently published National Planning Framework 2 discussion drafts. Each constituent council had already submitted its own response and, accordingly, the current report focussed on the key issues of relevance to the SDPA.

John Inman (Planning Strategy Manager, City of Edinburgh Council) spoke to the report and indicated that, in order to meet the deadline of 15 April 2008, an

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officer's draft of the current report had already been submitted as a response. The Scottish Government had agreed an extension until shortly after 28 April 2008 to allow formal submission of the Committee's joint response.

Decision

- 1) To agree that the Director's report be forwarded to the Scottish Government as the Interim Joint Committee's response to the consultation on the National Planning Framework 2.
- 2) That the Interim Joint Committee's response to the consultation include a reference emphasising the need for NPF2 and the ongoing Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) to be closely aligned.
- 3) That the officials submit a progress report on STPR to the additional meeting of the Interim Joint Committee in late June 2008.

(References – Interim Edinburgh and South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan Joint Committee 28 January 2008 (item no 7); report by the Director of City Development, City of Edinburgh Council, submitted).

6 Future Meeting Arrangements

Decision

- 1) To agree that there will be an additional meeting of the Interim Joint Committee in the City Chambers, Edinburgh, at an appropriate date in late June 2008.
- 2) To note that, in addition to 1 above, the Joint Committee will meet in the City Chambers, Edinburgh at 2.00 pm on Monday 25 August and Monday 24 November 2008.