

Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (SESplan) Update

Report by Mary Smith, Director Education, Communities and Economy

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to present the Minutes of the Meeting of 18 November 2013 of the Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (SESplan) Joint Committee and matters arising, and to seek ratification of the proposed SESplan 2014/15 operating budget, including Member Council contributions. The Minutes are appended to this report.

2 Background

- 2.1** Review of Strategic Development Planning Authorities: The Committee noted that the Scottish Government's review of Strategic Development Planning Authorities was in progress, with a planned completion date in February 2014. The Committee would have an opportunity to input to the review through the programme of interviews and workshops.
- 2.2** Supplementary Guidance - Housing Land: At its meeting on 5 November 2013, Council ratified, for consultative purposes, the draft *Supplementary Guidance - Housing Land* which had been prepared as required by Scottish Ministers in approving, with modifications, the SESplan Strategic Development Plan. The Joint Committee was advised that all six SESplan Member Authorities had ratified the draft Guidance which had been published for a six-week consultation between 12 November and 23 December 2013. A further report is to be brought to the Joint Committee in early 2014 regarding the issues raised in consultation and whether any modifications to the draft Guidance should be considered.
- 2.3** Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2 - Housing Update: The Joint Committee received an update report on progress in the preparation of the evidence base on housing matters to inform SDP2. In particular, there was discussion about the work in progress, in conjunction with the Scottish Government's Centre for Housing Market Analysis (CHMA), on the second Housing Needs and Demand Assessment; this is being prepared using a tool provided by the CHMA and informed by economic forecasting for the SESplan area undertaken by Oxford Economics. The Committee noted progress and agreed that a workshop be arranged to allow it to review the scenarios to be considered using the CHMA methodology.
- 2.4** SESplan Operational Review: This review had been undertaken at the request of Scottish Borders Council. The SESplan Project Board had defined the scope to consider areas of potential cost reduction and process improvement and reductions/improvements in these areas had

duly been sought. The Joint Committee noted the proposed aim to achieve a 5% cost reduction in the SESplan operating budget from financial year 2014/15 onwards (see paragraph 2.5 below), and agreed to undertake the review annually to strengthen financial scrutiny, accountability and governance.

- 2.5** Financial Update and Proposed Operating Budget for 2014/15: The Joint Committee considered the audited accounts for 2012/13 and approved an operating budget for 2014/15 of £339,488 with a target of a 5% reduction from 2014/15 onwards (£16,974 for 2014/15) with regular progress reports to the Committee. The Joint Committee approved Member Council contributions for 2014/15 of £49,000 per Authority, payable to Fife Council by 30 April 2014; this is the same level of contribution as for 2012/13 and 2013/14. Member Councils are asked to ratify the 2014/15 operating budget of £339,488, including Member Council contributions of £49,000 per Authority.
- 2.6** Appointment of Convener and Vice Convener for 2014: Councillor Ian Perry of City of Edinburgh Council was appointed as Convener of the Joint Committee, with Councillor Stuart Bell of Scottish Borders Council as Vice Convener, for the two-year period 1 January 2014 - 31 December 2015. Cabinet should note that Midlothian Council will provide the Vice Convener for the period 1 January 2018 - 31 December 2019, and Convener from 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2021.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

Ratification of the SESplan Joint Committee's decision to approve the SESplan operating budget of £339,488 for 2014/15, requiring Member Council contributions of £49,000 per Authority, is recommended, with a target of 5% cost reduction from financial year 2014/15 onwards. The Council's annual budgetary provision for SESplan is £49,585 with an additional sum of £7,500 to allow for exceptional costs associated with background studies (e.g. transport modelling) or public examination; the Council's contribution for 2014/15 can therefore be met within budget, with any cost savings accruing to the Council or reducing costs in subsequent years.

3.2 Risk

The budgetary allocation of £49,000 per Member Council should be sufficient to accommodate most reasonable costs arising. If sufficient funding is not available to progress the SDP at a rate which provides an up-to-date strategic planning policy context, there are risks for the timeous progression of Local Development Plans.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

This report is relevant to the themes of Adult Health, Care and Housing; Improving Opportunities in Midlothian; and Sustainable Growth.

3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

This report contributes to the priority of concluding the preparation of the South East Scotland SDP1 in partnership with the five other partner Councils, and commencing preparation of SDP2, by 31 March 2014. It also assists in taking forward the preparation of the Midlothian Local Development Plan (MLDP) to Proposed Plan stage by Spring 2014.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The SDP provides strategic guidance and forward planning for investment in future growth and development in the wider city region, including Midlothian, over the period to 2032. Together with the MLDP, it will help to inform the future spending priorities of the Council and its community planning partners as well as other public, private and voluntary sector bodies.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The SESplan Main Issues Report was the subject of public consultation in line with the SESplan Development Plan Scheme participation statement. The Proposed Plan and Environmental Report, with supporting documents including the Action Programme, were subject to representations in November-December 2011. A Statement of Conformity with the Participation Statement was approved by the Reporters at the SDP1 Examination. The *Supplementary Guidance - Housing Land* report is currently subject to consultation over a six-week statutory period ending on 23 December 2013.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

The SDP Main Issues Report and Proposed Plan were the subject of an Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment, approved by the SESplan Joint Committee and ratified by the Member Councils.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The SDP is subject to Strategic Environment Assessment. An Interim Environmental Report accompanied the Main Issues Report and an Updated Environmental Report (and Addendum) accompanied the Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan is based upon a sustainable development strategy. A Post-Adoption Statement has been prepared and made publicly available, as statutorily required.

3.9 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

4 Recommendations

4.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- (a) note the Minutes of 18 November 2013 of the SESplan Joint Committee and matters arising; and
- (b) ratify the 2014/15 operating budget of £339,488, including Member Council contributions for 2014/15 of £49,000 per Authority, together with a target of achieving a 5% cost reduction from 2014/15 onwards.

16 December 2013

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Background Papers: Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh and South East Scotland, June 2013; Supplementary Guidance - Housing Land, Consultation Draft, November 2013

Declaration Box

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Title of Report: Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (SESplan) Update

Meeting Presented to: Cabinet 14 January 2013

Author of Report: Janice Long

I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-

3All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Human Resources.

☒ *All risk implications have been addressed.*

☒ *All other report implications have been addressed.*

☐ *My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.*

Education interest. Yes