



MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: PROPOSED PLAN

Report by Head of Communities and Economy

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the current stage reached in the preparation of the Midlothian Local Development Plan, and advises on the remaining stages to the point of final adoption by the Council. It amplifies the content of the Development Plan Scheme for Midlothian No. 8, which is reported elsewhere on this agenda.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 All local planning authorities in Scotland are required by legislation to prepare local development plans for their respective areas. In Midlothian the emerging Midlothian Local Development Plan (MLDP) will, on adoption, supersede the current Midlothian Local Plan (2008). Members may recall that the Main Issues Report of the MLDP was published for public consultation in 2013 and, following consideration of responses received, the Council published the MLDP Proposed Plan in 2015, with a notification period for the receipt of representations ending on 26 June 2015.
- 2.2 A report advising on the scale and nature of the representations received was considered by Committee in November 2015, with two workshops and a drop-in session for Members provided in February this year.

3 NEXT STAGES

- 3.1 The Council is now required to submit its MLDP Proposed Plan to Scottish Ministers. In doing so it will have had to consider all of the representations received following publication of the Proposed Plan, and to have made any modifications to the Proposed Plan. Along with the Proposed Plan the Council is required to send to Scottish Ministers copies of all unresolved objections to the Proposed Plan together with the Council's written response, these being known as 'Schedule 4' documents. The Scottish Government's Department of Planning and Environmental Appeals will then appoint a Reporter to conduct an Examination in Public into the unresolved objections to the Plan.

- 3.2 Where a local planning authority decides to modify its Proposed Plan there is a requirement for it to be republished for a further period for receipt of any further representations. As this can add considerable delay to the preparation of the Plan it is normal practice for Councils only to make such modifications where they are significant in nature to the extent that a further round of notification is considered appropriate. Where a planning authority is intending to make relatively minor modifications to the Proposed Plan it will normally indicate this in its Schedule 4 submissions so that the Reporter can have the opportunity to make such changes in his/her report of the Examination.
- 3.3 As work on the preparation of the draft Schedule 4 documents is at an advanced stage it is intended to submit a report to the next meeting of the Council on 17 May 2016. That report will seek formal decisions on any modifications to be made to the Proposed Plan, the final content of the Proposed Plan for submission to Scottish Ministers, and the formal position of the Council in response to the representations/ objections received to the Proposed Plan. If all these matters are agreed then the formal submissions would be made, with the Examination into the Plan being scheduled for later this year.
- 3.4 If, in advance of the submission of report to Council, Members wish to have any further briefings on this matter these can be arranged by the Planning service.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Committee is recommended to note the content of this report.

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Background Papers: None