

**Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh and South East Scotland
(SESplan): Proposed Plan****Report by Ian Johnson, Head of Communities and Economy****1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to present the proposed Strategic Development Plan (SDP) No. 2 for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (SESplan) and to seek ratification of the Plan.

2 Background

- 2.1** The Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland covers six Council areas, City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian, the Scottish Borders and the southern half of Fife. SESplan, under the auspices of its Joint Committee (which comprises two Councillors from each member Council) is a partnership of the six member authorities which prepares the strategic vision for the region for the next 20 years. The SDP is the statutory strategic framework with which local development plans as prepared by individual Councils must be in conformity

- 2.2** SESplan SDP No. 1 was approved by Scottish Ministers in June 2013, although a condition of the approval relating to housing provision was not formally signed off until summer 2014. Strategic Development Planning Authorities are required to update their SDPs every five years, making the target date for SESplan No. 2, as June 2018. Due to the extensive statutory preparation period, work on SESplan No. 2 commenced in 2015 with the publication of the Main Issues Report. In accordance with the agreed protocol, under which all constituent Councils are required to approve key stages of the plan preparation process, Members may recall considering the SESplan No. 2 Main Issues Report in draft at its meeting on 23 June 2015, at which it agreed:

- “(a) To ratify the decision of the Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland to approve the South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan No. 2: Main Issues Report for publication and public consultation along with its associated documents comprising the Monitoring Statement, the Interim Environmental Report, and the Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment; and*
- (b) That further reports be submitted at the remaining key statutory stages in the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan.”*

- 2.3** The next key stage in the preparation of SESplan No. 2 has been reached. Following consideration of all of the representations received in response to the publication of the Main Issues Report, the Joint Committee approved on 20 June 2016 the content of the Proposed Plan for the period 2018 to 2038. If ratified by all member Councils the Plan will be published for a period of representation, prior to formal submission to Scottish Ministers. Due to its size full colour copies of the report have been circulated separately to Members, with a further copy placed in the Members' Library.
- 2.4** The content of the Proposed Plan broadly reflects and continues the approach set out in the Main Issues Report. A key element is the extent of land required for housing development in the period 2018 to 2030. The allocated figure for Midlothian is such that it can be met on sites already in existing and emerging local development plans, thereby not requiring any additional land to be allocated in Midlothian for that period.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

The preparation and publishing of the proposed plan is undertaken within the operating budget of SESplan.

3.2 Risk

If the plan is not ratified by the six member authorities there will be a delay in publishing the plan and without 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

The development plan process is relevant to the themes of adult health, care and housing, improving opportunities in Midlothian and sustainable growth.

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The Strategic Development Plan (SDP) provides the spatial land use and development framework for the SESplan area for the next 20 years. It also provides a framework for the preparation and adoption of the Midlothian Local Development Plan (MLDP). Both documents are vital components in ensuring economic growth and business support opportunities across Midlothian, together with meeting housing need and maximising environmental quality.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The plan is prepared in partnership with the five other SESplan partner Councils and once approved forms the basis for the preparation of the second MLDP in due course.

3.6 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 from 2018 to 2038. 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.

3.7 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 scheme. The latest Development Plan Scheme (No. 8) sets out the provisions for further engagement following publication of the proposed SDP.

3.8 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.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

The SDP is subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment. An interim Environmental Report accompanied the Main Issues Report. An updated report will accompany the proposed plan when published.

3.10 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

4 Summary

- 4.1** Governance arrangements require each of the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SESplan) member Councils to approve the proposed plan, as agreed by the SESplan Joint Committee, prior to the plan being published. Midlothian has been an active partner in the preparation of the plan.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1** Council is recommended to ratify the proposed Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh and South East Scotland.

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Report Contact: Peter Arnsdorf, Planning Manager
Tel No 0131-271-3310
peter.arnsdorf@midlothian.gov.uk