

MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE SESPLAN JOINT COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 JUNE 2012

Committee Members Present:

Councillor Norman Hampshire, East Lothian Council
Councillor Michael Veitch, East Lothian Council
Councillor I Perry, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor A Rowley, Fife Council
Councillor J Bryant, Midlothian Council
Councillor O Thompson, Midlothian Council
Councillor S Bell, Scottish Borders Council
Councillor R Smith, Scottish Borders Council
Councillor T Boyle, West Lothian Council
Councillor C Muldoon, West Lothian Council

Apologies:

Councillor K Carrington, Fife Council
Councillor S Howat, City of Edinburgh Council

In Attendance:

Ms A Wood, SESplan
Mr P Collins, East Lothian Council
Mr I Glen, East Lothian Council
Mr R Jennings, East Lothian Council
Mr J Inman, City of Edinburgh Council
Mr B Frater, Scottish Borders Council
Mr K Winter, Fife Council
Mr S Field, West Lothian Council
Ms F McBrierty, West Lothian Council
Mr I Johnson, Midlothian Council
Ms J Long, Midlothian Council
Ms J Totney, East Lothian Council (clerk)

WELCOME

Mr P Collins, Executive Director, East Lothian Council, opened the first meeting of the SESPlan Joint Committee since the Local Government Elections in May 2012. Members were agreeable to Mr Collins chairing items 1-4, at which point the meeting would be handed over to the new Convenor.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies had been received from Councillors K Carrington and S Howat There were no substitutions.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no changes to the Order of Business.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Boyle, Bryant, Hampshire, Muldoon and Veitch declared interests as Members of SEStran.

4. APPOINTMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE CONVENER

Mr Collins advised that the role of convenor rotates between Member Authorities and will be carried out by East Lothian Council during 2012.

Councillor Norman Hampshire, as proposed by Councillor M Veitch and seconded by Councillor C Muldoon, was appointed as the Convener of the Joint Committee.

Councillor Hampshire assumed the Chair and welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

5. APPOINTMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE VICE CONVENER

Councillor Hampshire advised that the role of Vice-convenor Councillor is the remit of West Lothian Council during 2012.

Councillor C Muldoon, as proposed by Councillor Hampshire and seconded by Councillor T Boyle, was appointed as Vice Convener of the Joint Committee.

6. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF 5 MARCH 2011

Mr P Collins provided an update regarding item 10 – Operating Budget 2011/112 – nine month report. He advised that with regard to the minuted action for the SDP manager to seek to negotiate a reduction in accommodation and administration costs with the lease holder, an update report would now be presented to the next meeting of the SESPlan Board on 3rd August 2012. Thereafter, it would be for each council to consider these costs within their 2013/14 budget planning.

Decision

As none of the current members were members of the SESPlan Joint Committee as at 5 March 2012, the committee agreed to note the minute.

7. RATIFICATION OF DECISIONS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

Mr P Collins drew members' attention to the fact that the City of Edinburgh Council had now ratified the changes to the SESPlan Governance scheme.

Decision

The Joint Committee agreed to note the progress on the ratification of the amendments to the Constitution, Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations of SESplan Member Authorities.

8. PROPOSED STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN – SUBMISSION TO SCOTTISH MINISTERS

Mr P Collins spoke to the report and outlined the approvals that were required from the committee, highlighting the recommendation that no modifications should be made to the Proposed Plan in response to representations received, and that the Proposed Plan and supporting documents would be submitted to the Scottish Ministers in their current form. By way of background information, Mr Collins informed members that the representations have been grouped into 29 unresolved issues, each of which is summarised in a standard form, a Schedule 4 (S4). Members were advised that the S4s have been published in each Council's Members' Library or distributed internally within each member authority. Mr Collins added that each of the S4s summarises the issues raised and the changes sought, along with the proposed response to the issues.

Mr Collins talked through each of the report recommendations and highlighted that each member authority is required to individually approve the Habitat Regulations Appraisal. He added that any non-material amendments and corrections to typographical errors can be delegated to the SDP Manager but that any changes of a strategic nature would require the approval of the SESPlan Joint Committee. It was agreed that an additional recommendation be added regarding the delegation of non-material changes to the SDP Manager.

Mr Collins then informed the committee that the unresolved issues would be reported to the Scottish Ministers in August 2012 and that, based on previous experience, it

was anticipated that these would be dealt with promptly on a correspondence basis leading to approval of the Strategic Development Plan in 2013. Councillor Hampshire sought to establish any comments or concerns from each council.

Councillor R Smith, Scottish Borders Council, requested an amendment in relation to issue 10, representation PP/0143/0001 to the proposed plan. As this was not considered to be a material change, it was agreed that the wording be amended as recorded in the undernoted decision prior to submission to the Scottish Ministers.

Mr S Field, West Lothian Council, requested that all councils agree that the representations regarding the infrastructure improvements to support Winchburgh Core Development Area be included in the Transport S4, with a sub-heading of Representations on Specific Transportation Schemes. As this omission was an administrative oversight and is not considered to be a material change, it was agreed that this change would be made prior to submission to the Scottish Ministers. It was accepted that the SDP Action Plan adequately covered the issues raised by Newton Community Council.

Representatives from the other Member Authorities confirmed that they had no comments to make or points to raise regarding the Proposed Plan and supporting documents.

Decision:

The Joint Committee agreed to:

- a approve the Summary of Unresolved Issues (referred to at 2.1-2.35 in this report and available in members' libraries in Member Authorities, the SESplan office and at; http://www.sesplan.gov.uk/about/jc_reports
- b approve that no modifications are made to the Proposed Plan published in November 2011
- c approve the Report of Conformity with the Participation Statement (conforming with the participation statement as set out on the Development Plan Scheme, March 2011) available in members' libraries in Member Authorities, the SESplan office and at http://www.sesplan.gov.uk/about/jc_reports
- d delegate the Strategic Development Plan Authority (SDPA) Manager to submit to the Scottish Ministers the documents referred to in (a), (b) and (c) above together with the following, copies of which are available in members' libraries in Member Authorities, the SESplan office and at www.sesplan.gov.uk:
 - i. the Monitoring Report (May, 2010), as agreed by the Joint Committee on 26 March 2010;

- ii. the Environmental Report (November, 2011), as approved by the Joint Committee on 26 July 2011;
 - iii. the Action Programme (November 2011), as approved by the Joint Committee on 26 July 2011;
 - iv. the Development Plan Scheme (March, 2011), as approved by the Joint Committee on 7 March 2011; and
 - v. the Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (November 2011), as approved by the Joint Committee on 26 July 2011 and such other documents as may be required.
- e approve the Record of Habitats Regulations Appraisal including the Appropriate Assessment in members' libraries in Member Authorities, the SESplan office and at http://www.sesplan.gov.uk/about/jc_reports for ratification by the SESplan Member Authorities; and
- f subject to its ratification by the Member Authorities, to delegate the SDPA Manager to submit the Record of Habitats Regulations Appraisal including the Appropriate Assessment to the Scottish Ministers.
- g include an additional recommendation at (g) to delegate authority to the SDP Manager to make any non-material changes and correct typographical errors that are required to the Proposed Plan prior to submission to the Scottish Ministers
- h to amend the wording in relation to modification PP/0143/0001 to include: "While it is important that employment land should not be lost unnecessarily to non-employment uses, other parts of the Proposed Plan could underline the potential for further sustainable employment opportunities (mixed use) on other sites, including within housing allocations"
- i include the representations regarding the infrastructure improvements to support Winchburgh Core Development Area in the Transport S4, with a sub-heading of Representations on Specific Transportation Schemes.

9. OPERATING BUDGET 2011/12 – TWELVE MONTH REPORT

Mr P Collins advised that the expenditure had been contained within the budget set.

Decision

The Joint Committee noted the outturn figures for the SESplan operating budget for the year 2011/12.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no additional issues raised by the Joint Committee.

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED

There were no issues raised in relation to items previously circulated.

12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND PRE-AGENDA MEETINGS

September 3 2012 – MEETING CANCELLED

December 2012

(Pre-agenda meeting: 21 November 2012)

Meeting: 3 December 2012

The meeting on 3 December will start at 2pm and will be held in the Council Chambers, Town House, Haddington.