

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure
DATE	21 May 2013
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Consultation on National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/13/098

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek delegated authority to approve the Council's response to the Scottish Government's consultations on the National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). The consultation period for these documents does not allow them to be considered by the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that delegated authority is given to the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development to approve the Council's response to the Scottish Government consultations on NPF3 and SPP, following agreement with the Convenor and Vice Convenor of this Committee.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The contents of NPF3 and SPP will influence the shape of development planning in Aberdeen but there would be no resource implications anticipated from this.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The National Planning Framework (NPF) provides a framework for the spatial development of Scotland. The third NPF (NPF3) will set out the

Government's development priorities over the next 20-30 years. The Main Issues Report sets out the Government's preferred option as well as reasonable alternatives. In the case of Aberdeen, preferred options for national developments include the expansion of Aberdeen Harbour and enhancements to the airport and electricity grid. The consultation paper seeks the public's views.

The purpose of the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) is to set out national planning policies which reflect Scottish Ministers' priorities for the development and use of land. It directly relates to:

- the preparation of development plans;
- the design of development, from initial concept through to delivery; and
- the determination of planning applications and appeals.

The SPP promotes consistency in the application of policy across Scotland whilst allowing sufficient flexibility to reflect local circumstances.

The consultation period for these documents extends to 23 July 2013. This does not allow the E,P&I Committee the opportunity to consider the Council's response to the questions posed in these documents. Delegated authority is therefore sought for the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development to approve the Council's response following agreement with the Convenor and Vice Convenor of this Committee. It is proposed that this will be a joint response between Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils and the Strategic Development Planning Authority. The response would go before the SDPA Joint Committee in June.

6. IMPACT

These documents potentially contribute to the following Single Outcome Agreement priorities:

We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.

We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.

We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.

They also contribute to "Aberdeen - A Smarter City" in terms of working with partners to promote the city as a place to invest, live, work and export from. We also commit to develop, maintain and promote road, rail, ferry and air links from the city to the UK and the rest of the world.

These are high level documents so public interest in them in general is likely to be limited. However, the proposal to include the expansion of

Aberdeen Harbour as a National Development in the NPF3 has the potential to generate some press and public interest.

There is no need for an EHRIA for this report as it is concerned with the Council's response to a Scottish Government consultation. The consultation is open to anyone for comment and the Government is likely to have carried out a similar assessment on the documents.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

This is a consultation on Scottish Government documents so no risk to the Council is anticipated

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[National Planning Framework 3 – Main Issues Report \(MIR\)](#)

[Scottish Planning Policy – draft](#)

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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