

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Full Council
DATE	10 September 2018
REPORT TITLE	Proposed Aberdeen City & Shire Strategic Development Plan
REPORT NUMBER	PLA/18/125
DIRECTOR	Angela Scott
CHIEF OFFICER	Gale Beattie
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TERMS OF REFERENCE	8

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

On 24 August 2018 the Aberdeen City & Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) agreed the content of a Proposed Strategic Development Plan for the City Region. This report is to present the Proposed Strategic Development Plan for ratification by Aberdeen City Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council: -

- a) Ratifies the Proposed Aberdeen City & Shire Strategic Development Plan and associated supporting documents as the settled view of Aberdeen City Council;
- b) Notes the arrangements set out for public consultation on the Proposed Aberdeen City & Shire Strategic Development Plan and associated supporting documents; and,
- c) Notes that the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) shall submit the Proposed Aberdeen City & Shire Strategic Development Plan to Scottish Ministers for Examination in Public if no significant modifications are proposed to the Proposed Plan following the period of public consultation.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The review of the Strategic Development Plan 2014 is a significant piece of work that has involved, and will impact upon, Council services, public bodies, the business and development industry, and communities throughout

Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. The Strategic Development Plan provides certainty for the public, the development industry and businesses as to where and when development will take place.

SDPA Meeting of 24 August 2018

- 3.2 At its meeting of 24 August 2018, the Aberdeen City & Shire SDPA agreed a Proposed Strategic Development Plan and associated supporting documents as their settled view of the recommended final content of the next Strategic Development Plan for the City Region. This report asks Aberdeen City Council to ratify this decision, and a similar report will be presented to Aberdeenshire Council at their Full Council meeting on 27 September 2018.
- 3.3 A copy of the report presented to the SDPA meeting on 24 August is attached at Appendix 1. This describes in detail the process of reviewing the Strategic Development Plan, and the consultation that has been undertaken with Councilors, Officers, local communities and other key stakeholders over the past few months.
- 3.4 A copy of the Proposed Aberdeen City & Shire Strategic Development Plan (the "Proposed Plan") is attached at Appendix 2. Much of the content of the Proposed Plan remains the same as that in the extant Plan, however a number of important updates have been made to both content and presentation. These are described in detail in the SDPA Report at Appendix 1.
- 3.5 There are a number of supporting documents that have been prepared alongside the Proposed Plan:
 - Housing Methodology Paper
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment
 - Habitats Regulation Assessment
 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
 - Cumulative Transport Appraisal
 - Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment
- 3.6 These documents are all available to view on the SDPA's website:
<http://www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk/CurrentWork/CurrentConsultations.aspx>
- 3.7 Officers have also prepared a Proposed Action Programme (also available via the above link) which sets out what actions are needed for the targets and objectives in the Plan to be delivered, who is responsible for delivering them, and the expected timescale for doing this. Following the final approval of the next SDP by Scottish Ministers, the Action Programme will be monitored, updated regularly and published every two years.

Next Steps

- 3.8 Should Members agree to ratify, the Proposed Plan will constitute the settled view of both Councils on the intended form and content of the final approved Strategic Development Plan for the area. The Proposed Plan, alongside the existing Plan, will also become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.
- 3.9 Following ratification, the Proposed Plan and accompanying documents would be released together for a 10 week period of public consultation, during which time representations can be submitted. Further detail is provided in the SDPA report at Appendix 1. Before being released for public consultation, the Proposed Plan will be graphically designed and printed for formal publication.
- 3.10 Once the Proposed Plan has been published, the SDPA must consider all the representations it receives. If, following this period of consultation, no significant modifications are proposed, a summary of unresolved issues must be prepared before submission of the Proposed Plan to Scottish Ministers. The Scottish Ministers will then appoint a person (a Reporter) to hold an Examination in Public. Scottish Government Planning Circular 6/2013 refers to significant modifications as being modifications which are so significant as to change the underlying aims or strategy of the Plan.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct staffing or financial implications arising from this report as the cost of preparing and consulting on the Strategic Development Plan, as well as the subsequent Examination costs, can all be met from existing SDPA budgets to which both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils contribute annually.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The SDPA, of which Aberdeen City Council is a constituent part, is statutorily obliged to prepare and implement the Strategic Development Plan. The Scottish Ministers have powers to compel or take over responsibility for the Plan's development if it is not completed to a reasonable timescale. The Scottish Ministers can recover the expense of doing so in the latter case.
- 5.2 Within a Strategic Development Plan area, Section 16(6) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 requires planning authorities to ensure that Local Development Plans are consistent with the SDP. The Proposed Plan is a critical stage in the review process for the Local Development Plans.
- 5.3 Aberdeen City Council is currently in the process of preparing the next LDP, and are reliant on the Proposed Strategic Development Plan being ratified in order to progress with the publication of a Main Issues Report (MIR) (para 18, Circular 6/2013). Failure to ratify the Proposed Plan would result in a significant

delay to timeline for the LDP, and could result in the LDP not being replaced within the statutory time period.

- 5.4 The Development Plan Scheme for the Aberdeen City Local Development Plan is available to view at: <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2018-01/Development%20Plan%20Scheme%202018.pdf>. It is expected that the Aberdeen City Local Development Plan MIR and accompanying supporting documents will be presented to the relevant Council Committee in due course, and public consultation will commence in early 2019.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	N/A	N/A	N/A
Legal	Failure to deliver an up-to-date Local Development Plan	L	Ratifying the Proposed Plan will allow Aberdeen City Council to progress with a Main Issues Report in line with the statutory requirement to replace the Local Development Plan at least every 5 years.
Employee	N/A	N/A	N/A
Customer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Environment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Technology	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reputational	N/A	N/A	N/A

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	Ratifying the Proposed Plan will provide certainty for the public, development industry and businesses as to where and when development is intended to be focused over the next 20 years.

Prosperous People	Ratifying the Proposed Plan will help to cement the continued intention to develop sustainable mixed communities for the benefit of the whole population.
Prosperous Place	Ratifying the Proposed Plan will commit the Council to the Vision for the City Region to be an even more attractive, prosperous, resilient and sustainable place.
Enabling Technology	The Proposed Plan commits to encouraging opportunities for greater digital connectivity across the City Region. Ratifying the Proposed Plan will show support for this commitment.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	Ratifying the Proposed Plan will allow it to be released for public consultation.
Organisational Design	N/A
Governance	Ratifying the Proposed Plan will support the governance arrangements already in place for the SDPA.
Workforce	N/A
Process Design	N/A
Technology	N/A
Partnerships and Alliances	Ratifying the Proposed Plan will show a commitment to work with Aberdeenshire Council to achieve successful outcomes for the whole City Region.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Required. Copy available on the SDPA website: http://www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk/CurrentWork/CurrentConsultations.aspx

Privacy Impact Assessment	Not required.
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Referred to within the Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2014
- Circular 6/2013 Development Planning

10. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Report to SDPA Committee, 24 August 2018
- Appendix 2 – Proposed Aberdeen City & Shire Strategic Development Plan

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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