

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE, PERTH, ANGUS AND NORTH FIFE
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 24th NOVEMBER 2009**

REPORT ON: TAYPLAN INITIAL CONSULTATION - RESPONSES

**REPORT BY: PAMELA EWEN, STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN
AUTHORITY MANAGER**

REPORT NO: SDPA15-2009

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Joint Committee on the response to the awareness raising and initial consultation stage of the Strategic Development Plan.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that The Joint Committee:
- a) note the responses made to the consultation.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- 4.1 The initial consultation ran from 10th August for 6 weeks and was extended in response to some requests for late submissions. The consultation was focused on an on-line questionnaire, the detail of which was approved by the Joint Committee on 26th May 2009 (SDPA 07-2009: Awareness Raising Initial Consultation).
- 4.2 Letters were sent out from the four Councils to, for example, Community Councils, interest groups, consultants, developers, MSPs and MPs. An advert was placed in the Courier and the Press and Journal the week before and first week of the consultation. A press release was placed in local papers throughout the region.
- 4.3 One purpose of the consultation was to establish a TAYplan database of people who wish to be consulted and kept informed of TAYplan. TAYplan is unable to directly use the databases of the Councils, due to The Data Protection Act. To date, 436 consultees and agents have registered with TAYplan and continues to be promoted through the website.
- 4.4 In addition to the consultation workshop and meetings have been, and continue to be, held with key agencies and neighbouring authorities. Planning Circular 1/2009: Development Planning and Section 9(4) of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 1997 requires that in preparing the Main Issues Report (i.e. before its

publication) the SDPA should consult with key agencies, neighbouring planning authorities and Scottish Ministers. This consultation is ongoing throughout the process of preparing the Main Issues Report.

On-line questionnaire

- 4.5 The on-line questionnaire set out three questions seeking views on what the main strategic cross boundary landuse issues are considered to be, as well as views on improving consultation. A total of 144 responses were received (33% of those registered). An analysis of the responses received to the questionnaire is set out in Appendix One to this report.
- 4.6 Responses were received from a number of types of organisations and the general public. Housing, strategic infrastructure and transport are seen as the three top strategic and cross boundary priorities to be addressed within the Plan. Issues relating to these three areas will be included within the Main Issues Report in considering the likely overall requirement for housing across the region, new strategic infrastructure, and transportation. Some respondents suggested other priorities which will be considered in preparing the Main Issues Report, e.g. mineral resource location, oil and gas pipelines, leisure, and sustainability.
- 4.7 The last question sought feedback on how consultation could be improved. A number of individual comments were made, as detailed in Appendix One. The suggestions made will be considered in designing the consultation for the Main Issues Report next year. A consultation strategy will be presented to The Joint Committee on 16th February 2010 which will set out an appropriate level of consultation events across the Region for the purpose of the Strategic Development Plan and will consider the resources required to deliver this.

Other submissions

- 4.8 Other submissions were made in addition to or separate to the questionnaire. These were largely from the development industry promoting development sites, some already allocated within existing Structure Plans. These submissions will be considered in preparing the Main Issues Report, a summary of which will be presented to the Joint Committee on 16th February.

5 CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 The Treasurer and Clerk to TAYplan, the Director of Infrastructure Services, Angus Council, The Director of City Development, Dundee City Council, The Head of Development Services, Fife Council and the Executive Director (Environment), Perth & Kinross Council have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Report SDPA 07-2009: Awareness Raising Initial Consultation, Joint Committee 26th May 2009.

Pamela Ewen
Strategic Development Plan Authority Manager
11th November 2009

Appendix One

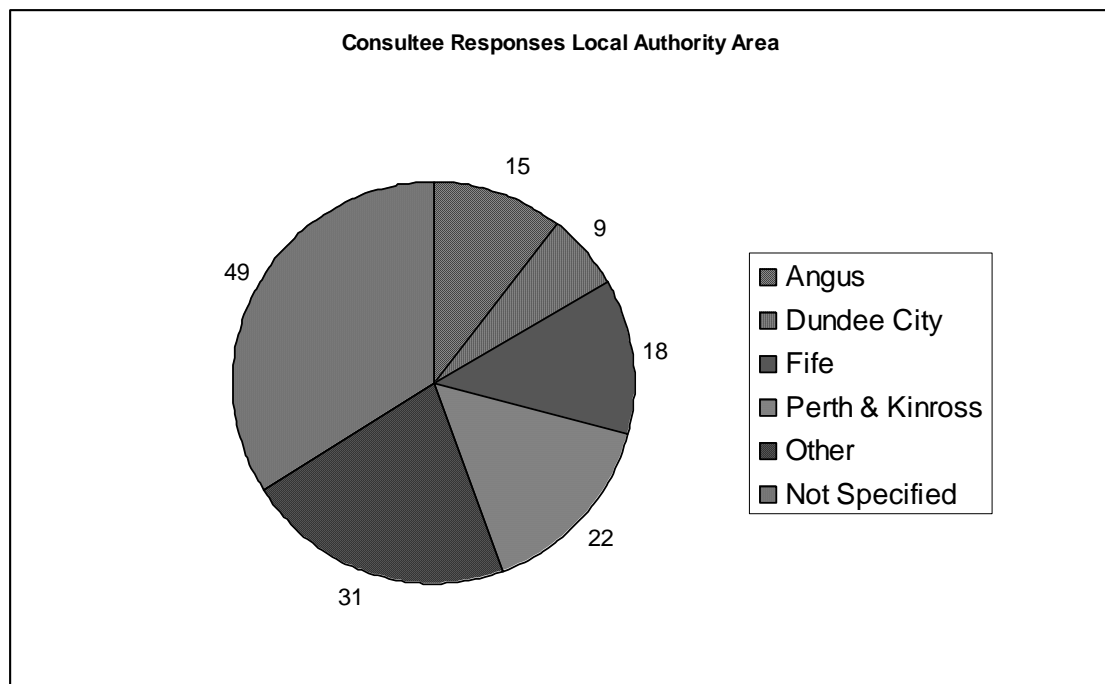
TAYplan Awareness Raising Initial Consultation Responses

Key Facts

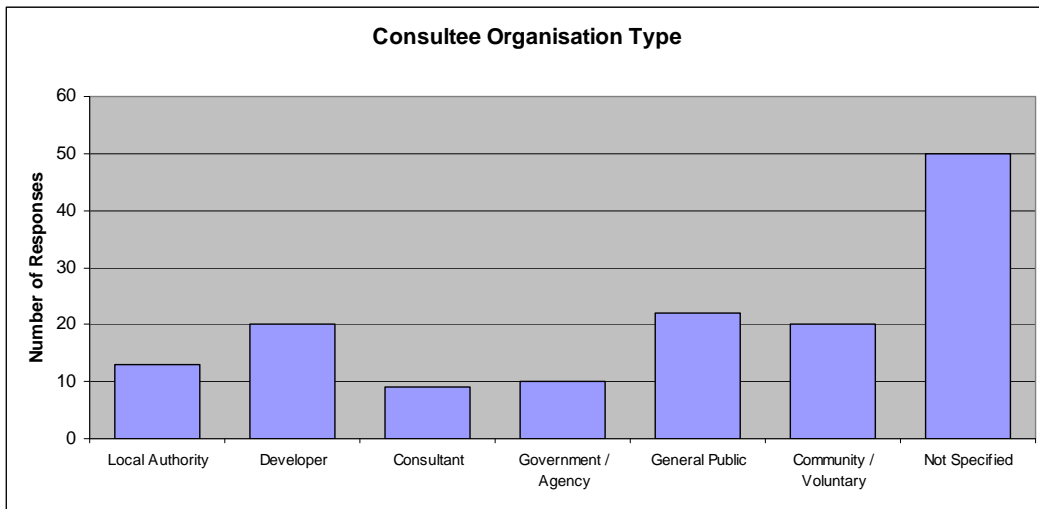
- 1) A total of 436 people have registered with TAYplan
 - 332 consultees, and
 - 104 agents;
- 2) 144 responses to the consultation were received (33% of those registered); and,
- 3) 26 of the responses received were site specific developer submissions.

Consultee Information

Of those consultees who stated the area their organisation was based in, the majority resided outwith the TAYplan region. This is likely because these are consultants answering on behalf of their clients. Of the four Local Authority areas, the least responses were received from Dundee City organisations with just 9. Angus, Fife and Perth & Kinross had 15, 18 and 22 responses respectively.

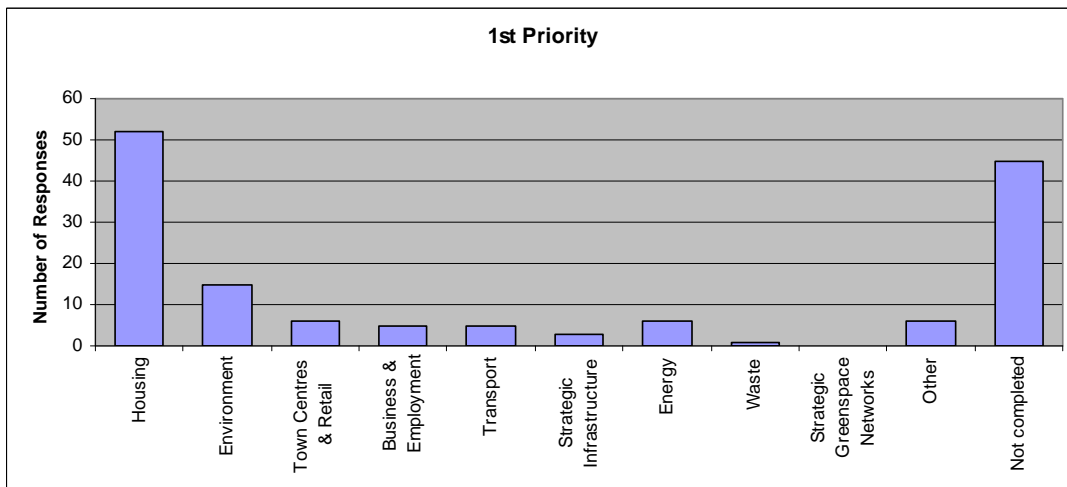


Many of those who responded to the consultation chose not to state their type of organisation. The majority of responses were received from developers, the general public and community/voluntary groups.

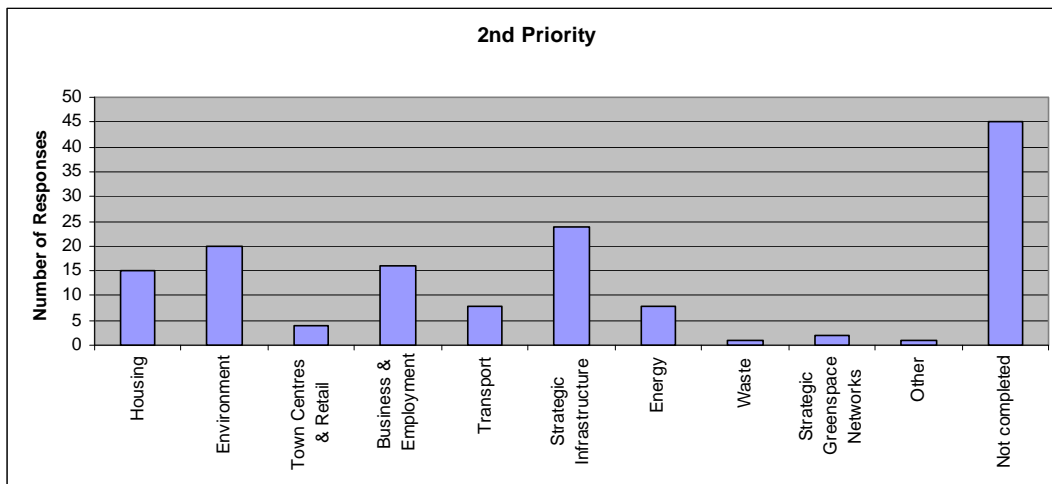


Question 2: Prioritise your top 3 cross boundary issues

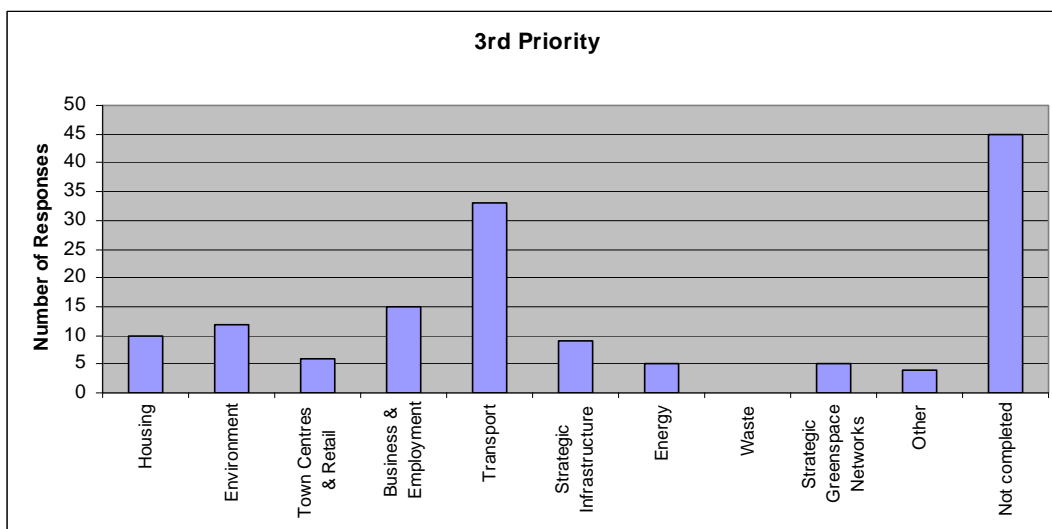
A large number of the consultation responses did not follow the format of the online questionnaire. As such 45 consultees did not answer Question 2 and prioritise their top three cross boundary issues. Of the 99 consultees who did answer this question, over 53% (52) stated housing as their 1st priority. The next highest issue was environment with 15% (15).



Strategic infrastructure was named as the most popular 2nd priority with 24% (24) of those responding choosing it. Environment, housing and business & employment received 20%, 15% and 16% respectively.



33% of respondents to Question 2 gave transport as their 3rd priority.



There were several consultees who provided another priority (not listed) as either their 1st, 2nd or 3rd. These are:

1st Priority (other)

- Aggregates supply
- Mineral resource location
- The concept that we need to change our behaviour
- Oil and gas pipelines
- Leisure/tourism
- Sustainability

2nd Priority

- Climate change

3rd Priority

- Access to the countryside to promote health, wellbeing and awareness and appreciation of nature
- Climate change and quality of life

Question 3: Do you have any suggestions as to how participation arrangements could be improved?

A number of individual comments were received to this question, as detailed below.

This is very complicated! I hope there will be a lot of public meetings and simple explanations in the local press
Advertise on TV (if finances stretch that far)
Consult all community councils at every stage of the process. Ask public if they want to be consulted and, if they reply to say that they do, send out questionnaires to all participants on each topic as it is dealt with. Use the press, radio and posters to engage public.
In general, the consultees are happy with the process and consider it to be well thought out. However, the opportunity to submit written submissions rather than the whole process being on line would have been preferred.
Try and make access to the process as simple as possible and as interesting as possible - radio phone ins? high profile champions? trying to avoid the somewhat off putting language normally used for consultations?
The views of the local Community Councils should be taken into account as the major stakeholders living in the areas.
The SDPA is rich in major international golfing destinations in Perthshire, Fife and Angus. A fora could be considered to examine, test and debate the strategic issues facing golf course resort development and this sector to protect and maximise its heritage and future prosperity for the wider sustainable economic growth of Scotland.
High profile touring consultation roadshows have proved to be successful in neighbouring strategic development plan areas.
In a manner such as the current Local Plan proposals, a document indicating areas zoning for uses would be of assistance to the public to view the proposed anticipated use examples being considered by the TAYplan Strategy.
The Dundee Courier & Advertiser is a well-read paper in the relevant area. The subject is of such importance as to merit one or more articles, inviting comment and debate.
Regular Email updates of progress and developments of TAYplan
Use posters and radio to get your message out to public. Hold workshops for registered participants in towns and rural areas. Consult all community councils at every stage of the process. .
There should be early meetings with consultees, not tokenism.
Advertise (locally and in newspapers) exhibitions in local halls - where visual displays and council representatives can be spoken to. Not everyone has internet access and written leaflets/reports are often ignored or misunderstood.
Early and open consultation.
Listen, read and react to the responses from the public when proposed strategies are published for public comment by TAYplan. Do not ignore consultation comments.
As with local authority Structure and Local Plans, the whole process seems incredibly prolonged and very often reaches farcical proportions when public inquiries are added to the process. The result is that valuable input from consultees is generally 3-4 years out of date by the time that plans are formally adopted. The degree of consultation, and the stages of the consultation process themselves, are fine - it is the length of time between each stage that is the problem. The process must be speeded up in order to respect the efforts made by those contributing to the process.
Hard copies should be made available to individuals and in local offices. I doubt is as many as 50% of residents access said information on the internet.
I am unsure if you have already considered this but it may be useful to set up focus groups containing representatives from a wide variety of interests in order to take soundings from on a semi formal basis.

<p>Public meetings will require to be held in all of the main settlements across the Plan area to identify the strategic issues both across the region and in the specific settlement. It needs to be made clear that there is an inter-relationship between what happens in one settlement and another from a strategic point of view. Public meetings such as this worked well in Aberdeenshire in the recent preparation of their new Structure Plan which has now been approved by the Scottish Ministers. Planning Officers also need to be available to meet with landowners/developers to discuss issues.</p>
<p>I am unsure if you have already considered this but it may be useful to set up focus groups containing representatives from a wide variety of interests in order to take soundings from on a semi formal basis.</p>
<p>To be consulted and kept informed about strategic thinking.</p>
<p>We welcome the opportunity to be involved in the preparation of the TAYplan and would be keen to be more involved in the future. We suggest that participation could be improved by allowing the opportunity to submit comments by other means than the online portal.</p>
<p>"Brainstorming' type local meetings.</p>
<p>There should be the opportunity for representatives of the house-building industry to engage effectively at all stages of the plan preparation process. In addition to house-builders forming part of the Housing Market Partnerships for the Housing Need and Demand Assessment process, consideration should be given to Housing Supply Groups which involve representatives from the house-building industry in addition to Homes for Scotland, the Council and Housing Associations. Furthermore, Stakeholder Meetings where open dialogue and engagement can take place at a local forum level would also be appropriate for discussing strategy and policy issues with key agencies (SW/SEPA/SNH etc) and other house-builder representatives relative to the TAYplan SDP.</p>
<p>Regular contact with interested bodies, including consultants/agents Regularly updated website including minutes and agenda of Board meetings Quarterly meeting with interested parties/agents and consultees</p>
<p>The online system is very confusing and a deterrent to Community Engagement.</p>
<p>I am unsure if you have already considered this but it may be useful to set up focus groups containing representatives from a wide variety of interests in order to take soundings from on a semi formal basis. Focus Groups.</p>
<p>Participation arrangements should include a clear explanation as to how and when the new Strategic Development Plan will replace/overtake/overrule the current development plans of the constituent authorities. If this is not clear it will be difficult for stakeholders to understand how and when their input into the process will influence (in theory) changes in the current structure and local plans before their eventual and dates.</p>
<p>Encourage greater use of the web and internet, which would bring into your consultation many younger people who do not care to attend formal consultation meetings. Publicise the web-based opportunities accordingly.</p>
<p>The need for well structured key stakeholder update forums at critical stages of the Plan's preparation in order to keep all parties informed and to promote and stimulate debate on emerging issues. Such an approach was successfully adopted by Highland Council in preparing the A96 Strategic Development Framework Plan. I would however suggest that in addition to developers, landowners and politicians, Local Action group and Community Councils representatives should also be invited to such forums in order to be as inclusive as possible.</p>
<p>The participation arrangements as set out in the TAYplan Development Plan Scheme look to be appropriate. However, what may be useful in preparing the plan is to hold round table discussions with groups such as developers, landowners, infrastructure providers (e.g. Scottish Water) after the publication of the Main Issues Report. This would allow for focused discussion on the main issues.</p>

As a community with a large percentage of elderly people who are not computer literate, over reliance on online methods will exclude many. Although online approaches are useful, given the sensitivity of many of the issues, they will not help to address fears and concerns. In other words, plenty of face to face opportunities to have real dialogue with elected members, planning officers etc - local roadshows and the like.

Scottish Water are currently satisfied with our ongoing participation in the TAYplan consultation.

The main point to highlight is that the TAYplan structure document takes account of the Dundee Partnership investment in Local Community Planning and Community Engagement. Local Community Planning Partnerships and key community organisations need to be consulted about significant planning developments in each of the eight decentralised areas in Dundee. Also that this should be clearly acknowledged in the development of the Dundee Local Development Plan.

The timing of this consultation through the summer when most voluntary groups and community councils are in recess has made participation at this stage very difficult. Publicity about it has been very sparse with no communication with our group. Knowledge of the consultation only transpired by chance.

There should be public meetings about it with time for questions, similar to what we had with the present Structure Plan process. Also Planning Aid should be encouraged to run seminars and workshops.

Regular contact with interested bodies, including consultants/agents Regularly updated web-site including minuted and agenda of Board meetings Quarterly meeting with interested parties/agents and consultees

Talk directly with small communities as well as through agencies. The MS word version was easier than the web version as I could work off line.

We would welcome the opportunity to continue dialogue after the Main Issues Report consultation is completed. We consider it important to resolve any issues we may have before publication of the proposed SDP and to work with you to deliver a plan that responds to the needs of the historic environment. This may mean commenting on draft policies as they emerge or on the requirements for more detail where strategic growth is identified.

The arrangements for participation with TAYplan to date have been effective and worthwhile. Transport Scotland looks forward to continuing meaningful and pragmatic engagement with TAYplan and other key agencies in the strategic development plan process to ensure effective participation in, and effective contribution to, the process.