

REPORT TO: DUNDEE, PERTH, ANGUS AND NORTH FIFE
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 26th MARCH 2013

REPORT ON: TAYPLAN STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROJECT
PLAN UPDATE

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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress in implementing the project plan for the review of the approved Strategic Development Plan (2012) and preparation of the next Strategic Development Plan.

2 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Legislation requires the next Proposed Plan to be submitted to Scottish Ministers by 8th June 2016. At the 2 October 2012 Joint Committee members approved the project plan (Report SDPA09-2012 Review of Strategic Development Plan Project Plan) for the delivery of the next Strategic Development Plan within the legislative timescales. The Joint Committee also agreed to the continuation of Perth & Kinross Council acting as the responsible authority for the preparation of the next Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 2.2 Activities defined in the project plan have commenced to schedule and continue to progress. These activities include the Housing Need and Demand Assessment, the preparation of the next Monitoring Statement, work on the Green Network Strategy, a study into strategic land use changes over the longer term, energy and other research areas.
- 2.3 The first progress update for the TAYplan Action Programme sets out delivery progress on a series of identified actions. Study work has commenced on 4 of the national actions relating to infrastructure projects. Studies and physical works have commenced on some of the Strategic Development Plan Actions and the Housing Market Partnership has been established. Work has commenced on defining areas of undeveloped coast and flood risk assessments through the Local Development Plans of the four constituent councils.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that The Joint Committee:
- a) Note the progress to date in implementing the Project Plan.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The financial implications of delivering the Plan over the current budget year are set out in report SDPA03-2013: Budget Update on this agenda.

5 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) POST ADOPTION STATEMENT

- 5.1 Following the approval and publication of any plan there is a requirement to prepare a post-adoption statement as the final component of the SEA. The Post-Adoption Statement has been completed by Perth & Kinross Council as the responsible authority. The document has been submitted to the SEA Gateway at Scottish Government and has also been statutorily advertised in the local press and published on the TAYplan website.
- 5.2 The SEA is proposed to be resourced through existing staff resource internal to TAYplan and the constituent councils, with Perth & Kinross Council having a lead role. In addition a temporary post will be required over the peak period of work, which was the resource approach taken in delivering the SEA of the first Plan. This would be met within the TAYplan revenue budget. Work is also underway with the other three Strategic Development Planning Authorities in working towards joint indicators to monitor the SEA.

6 PROJECT ACTIVITIES COMMENCED

Monitoring Framework

- 6.1 TAYplan officers are working closely with constituent councils, key stakeholders and other Strategic Development Planning Authorities on the preparation of the next Monitoring Statement. Work is focusing on achieving consistency and agreement on the appropriate indicators to measure progress towards achieving the outcomes set out in the TAYplan vision. It is then intended to work jointly to progress the analysis and conclusions to inform the preparation of the next Main Issues Report. The potential benefits of this approach are to reduce work-load and to make monitoring more useful and consistent across our partnerships (and other Strategic Development Planning Authorities) to promote consensus and reduce potential conflict at later stages in the plan review.

Early Engagement – ‘TAYplan: Your place, Your future, Your say – Issues, Challenges and New Projects

- 6.2 Whilst not a statutory requirement, an early opportunity to engage in the plan process is proposed to run from 22nd April to 11th June 2013. As set out in Committee Report SDPA01-2013: TAYplan Pre-Main Issues Report Consultation: Your place, Your future, Your say – Issues, Challenges and New Projects, this provides an opportunity to comment on what new issues or challenges have emerged or changed and any projects/sites of regional significance to be submitted.

Boundary Change

- 6.3 The boundary change request was submitted to Scottish Ministers for their decision on 19 December 2012 following agreement by the Joint Committee on 2 October 2012 and subsequent ratification by all four councils. This occurred within the three month statutory timeframe. Scottish Ministers have now approved this change.

National Consultations

- 6.4 TAYplan has responded to the Scottish Government consultations on National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3), the Review of Scottish Planning Policy and the Draft Tourism Development Plan for Scotland. Brief summaries of these responses are included in the following paragraphs.
- 6.5 Some of the key points in the response to NPF3 explain that:
- Connectedness will be essential to support Scotland's economic growth. In particular emphasis is placed on the essential role played by this region and its transport infrastructure in linking the central belt with the economies of North East Scotland and the Highlands. Particular reference is made to how this infrastructure and improvements to it are of importance to this region and Scotland as a whole;
 - Place quality in delivering on sustainable economic growth and responding to climate change;
 - Cities, including Dundee and Perth will have a major role in achieving national ambitions and outcomes;
 - TAYplan support the National Planning Framework bringing together the interrelated plans and strategies including landuse, renewables (onshore and off shore), marine planning, infrastructure and the economy to set out a national spatial framework;
 - NPF2 developments, including the green networks, active travel, and air quality should be retained and considered further within the context of climate change; and,
 - It is important that the Framework has an evidence base and that much of the evidence is set out at Main Issues Report stage to allow consideration of options.
- 6.6 The response also highlights several projects which are considered to be of national importance:
- **A9/A85 junction improvements and the Cross Tay Link Road infrastructure at Perth West/North West** – Road infrastructure to the West/North West of Perth is considered a national gateway; critical to the movement of national traffic linking the central belt and beyond to Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness;
 - **A90 upgrade through or around Dundee** – This is already in the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) and continues to be of national importance to reduce conflict with local and strategic traffic and to improve journey time reliability between the Central Belt and Aberdeen and North East Scotland;
 - **Dundee Waterfront** – The Waterfront has a national cultural role and there is also the major role to be played by Dundee Port in delivering and servicing Scotland's renewable energy sector. Dundee airport is also part of the Waterfront area and should continue to be recognised in relation to the enhancement of services as part of national consideration of airports for passengers and freight;
 - **East Coast Corridor** – Continued importance should be placed on the role of and need to enhance the linkages between Aberdeen-Dundee-St Andrews-Edinburgh-Newcastle with an increased role in moving to a low carbon economy, developments within the energy sector and the knowledge role the Universities can play; and,

- **Usan** near Montrose – this is already in STPR (Project 23) and involves upgrading single rail track to double track, including a new bridge over the entry to Montrose basin. This has the potential to increase capacity on the rail network, improve journey times between Aberdeen and the central belt, and improve reliability to support economic growth in Aberdeen, North East Scotland and the Central Belt.

6.7 The response to the Scottish Planning Policy suggests:

- A more policy focused approach be taken to bring greater clarity and improve the way that the policy is used;
- A more rigorous approach to present content which is considered to be guidance rather than policy;
- A much stronger emphasis on place quality as a specific area of policy rather than being included in the housing section, as it is presently;
- A reinforcement of the presumption in favour of development through policy;
- That policy and monitoring should be much more aligned to outcomes to provide a more holistic structure. Some national issues have moved on and/or become increasingly important such as responding to Climate Change duties, development delivery, place making and infrastructure.
- The glossary assists in providing consistency in interpretation and should be retained;
- Further consideration and clarity should be given to the term '*generous*' for housing land supply;
- Greater consideration of food security and carbon rich soils;
- A clear policy on national designations to provide consistency and avoid the need for such policies sitting within SDP/LDPs;
- Consideration should be given to transport policy sitting within wider infrastructure policy aligned to NPF3, NRIP etc; and,
- A focus on energy as a whole rather than just renewable energy.

6.8 The Draft Tourism Development Plan for Scotland was welcomed and provides a useful context for the TAYplan Strategic Development Plan. The response made recommendations that:

- The Tourism Plan explicitly clarifies that development proposals within it will need to be considered through the Development Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment processes and that it will be for each planning authority to consider what is acceptable or otherwise;
- Strategically/nationally important facilities, events and infrastructure improvements in the TAYplan area are included in the Tourism Plan. These are:
 - V&A and Dundee waterfront and the role of Dundee Airport;
 - Road infrastructure improvements at Perth West/North West (A9/A85 junction improvements and the Cross Tay Link Road Infrastructure) to help ease future national traffic flows through/around Perth for links between the central belt and the highlands;
 - Road infrastructure improvements at Dundee (A90 upgrade), already within the Strategic Transport Policy Review, and is important to the ease of movement of national traffic from the central belt through to North East Scotland;

- National/international events within the TAYplan area including those at Scone Palace, Gleneagles, St Andrews, Carnoustie, T in the Park near Kinross, Arbroath SeaFest, Dundee Flower and Food Festival and key events in Highland Perthshire;
- The significant tourism role for Scotland of the Fife and Angus coastlines; and,
- The role fishing on the River Tay, in particular, and the significant benefits to the area's economy.

7 RESEARCH PROJECTS/WORK COMMENCED

Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA)

7.1 The next phase of the HNDA exercise commenced in October 2012 with planning and housing officers from each of the 4 councils and TAYplan continuing to work jointly. Methodology work and the assembly of data and information are advancing well. The Scottish Government's Centre for Housing Market Analysis (CHMA) has also published a long awaited prototype spread-sheet tool, which enables scenarios to be built and tested. This tool is presently being tested by TAYplan and the four councils and discussions are on-going regarding the initial outputs and analysis.

7.2 It is intended to consult the councils' wider housing market partnerships on the proposed methodology after Easter 2013 and, following feedback, to complete the exercise for a second round of consultation with the housing market partnerships in June 2013. It is anticipated that the HNDA be would completed for submission to CHMA during August 2013 in order to inform the production of the next TAYplan Main Issues Report.

7.3 As part of this work Officers will consider the implications of the MoD's recently announced Basing Strategy which sets out where personnel currently living abroad are to be transferred to in the UK and the numbers. Officers will consider implications for Leuchars and any other implications of changes at Condor (Arbroath).

Green Network Strategy

7.4 Green Networks are about how we plan to preserve, best utilise, enhance and benefit from our numerous pieces of green infrastructure (land and vegetation), blue infrastructure (water) and grey infrastructure (built environment and routes). It is intended to prepare supplementary planning guidance to accompany the next Strategic Development Plan.

7.5 Work has commenced with a workshop session involving the four councils, practitioners from Universities and government agencies. Further work is now underway to develop these ideas further and identify Green Networks of strategic importance. The Draft Strategy is programmed for consideration by the Joint Committee in February 2014.

TAYplan Strategic Land use Change (2035-2050) Phase 1 Report

7.6 TAYplan with 5 other key partners jointly commissioned the Universities of Abertay, Dundee and St. Andrews in 2012 to prepare a strategic land use study. Phase 1 was completed in January 2013. This phase identified and considered existing research relating to what key societal, economic and climatic changes may occur over the next twenty to forty years; how these could change the way people lead their lives ; and, what the strategic implications for land use in the TAYplan area arise as a result.

- 7.7 Phase 1 considered 122 published works from academic, governmental and private sector sources. It concluded that there is a significant amount of research relating to the future challenges facing TAYplan. However, the scale of many studies is often pitched at national or international level rather than being TAYplan specific. Studies undertaken often have a subject focus, usually that of the commissioning agency, rather than being integrated. Studies also dealt with the short and medium term with few focussing on longer term implications for land use change. However, some studies examined new or evolving methods or approaches which would be applicable to the TAYplan level.
- 7.8 Phase 2 aims to prioritise and develop a number of specific research questions for future study in collaboration with the project commissioning bodies and other TAYplan stakeholders.

Climate Change Adaptation

- 7.9 Work has commenced in considering what the strategic landuse issues are for the TAYplan area in respect of climate change. The approved Plan sets out policies to respond to climate change issues predominantly through the mitigation of climate change. The new work which has commenced is looking at adaptation to climate change's unavoidable impacts and the resilience of the area through long-term planning, including infrastructure and spatial planning. We are in the process of gaining a better understanding of what additional information is required, and in doing so TAYplan has organised 2 training sessions in partnership with Adaptation Scotland for representatives from the 4 constituent Councils and TAYplan's Key Stakeholders.

Energy

- 7.10 How TAYplan's future energy needs are generated is being further considered. Planning for how our energy needs are met through our Development Plans has tended to focus on wind energy. Whilst the next Strategic Development Plan is now required (by Ministers) to set out a spatial strategy for wind energy, TAYplan is working towards producing an energy spatial strategy which will seek to look across different methods of energy generation including renewables. An officer workshop in May will provide an opportunity to share knowledge and consider the scope of a strategic spatial strategy for energy. This is being organised with industry representatives and will involve representatives from the 4 constituent Councils and TAYplan's Key Stakeholders.

Mapping Spatial Strategies and Graphics

- 7.11 The use of graphics within the approved Strategic Development Plan has been praised. Nevertheless, we are working with the other 3 Strategic Development Planning Authorities in Scotland, the Scottish Government and Architecture and Design Scotland to consider how our use of maps and graphics within the plan can be improved. The intention is to have some consistency between the mapping within the National Planning Framework and the Strategic Development Plans. TAYplan are exploring opportunities with the University of Abertay with regards the potential to utilise their expertise in visualisation modelling and other work.

8 TAYPLAN ACTION PROGRAMME PROGRESS UPDATE (MARCH 2013)

Context

8.1 The Action Programme was approved by the Joint Committee in June 2012 and published alongside TAYplan's Approved Strategic Development Plan (June 2012). The Action Programme focuses on the strategic actions and partnerships required to achieve the Plan's vision and spatial strategy.

8.2 This is the first Progress Update since publication of the approved Action Programme (June 2012). Legislation requires the Action Programme to remain a live document and to be updated regularly. The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 states that *'the authority must keep the action programme under review and must update and re-publish it whenever they think it appropriate to do so but in any event within 2 years after last publishing (or re-publishing) it'*. The present Action Programme (June 2012) will remain in place until it is republished. In the interim, the purpose of this Progress Update is to record progress on the actions.

Strategic Project/Proposal

8.3 The Approved Action Programme (2012) identifies projects/proposals, their strategic importance, phasing, timing, funding, priority, evidence of progress and the lead partners and delivery bodies that will deliver the actions. This Progress Update does not provide a comprehensive description of all activity associated with the identified actions. Instead it focuses on what has changed and progress since publication.

a) National Actions

Action	Progress
Actions 1 and 4: Strategic Park and Ride/ Park and Choose facilities serving Dundee at: Dundee West/ A92 South of Tay Bridge	Work has begun on implementing both sites and is projected for completion by December 2014.
Action 5: A90 upgrade through or around Dundee	Transport Scotland have advised that whilst the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) is a Transport Scotland Policy Document which has identified a series of investment priorities which could be delivered between 2012 and 2032, it is not a funding document. Accordingly, it is not possible to confirm any project timetable until schemes are formally committed. The 'A90 upgrade through or around Dundee' has not yet been committed and therefore Transport Scotland cannot be specific on when work may be carried out. Transport Scotland is content that the Action Programme states that the 'route assessment options' will be undertaken in the first 12 years of the TAYplan Proposed Plan, but no assurances or commitment can be given that the timetable stated of October 2014 to January 2015 can be delivered'.
Rail enhancement on Highland Main Line between Perth and Inverness	Phase 1, in the Approved Action Programme, stated that service frequency and journey times on existing infrastructure would be maximised. This phase was completed in December 2012.

Action	Progress
Improve rail infrastructure and connectivity regionally and nationally	<p><i>a) Progress a business case for the potential relocating of Invergowrie rail station to Dundee West</i></p> <p>The initial assessment to inform the business case started in December 2012 and will be completed by March 2013.</p> <p><i>b) Enhance Gleneagles station and improve access</i></p> <p>This project is being managed by Tactran with input being provided by Perth & Kinross Council; Network Rail; First ScotRail; and Transport Scotland. Work is programmed to be completed in advance of the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles in September 2014.</p>
A9 upgrading from Dunblane to Inverness	The A9 dualling between Perth and Inverness was highlighted in the Scottish Government's Infrastructure Investment Plan 2011 (Progress Report for 2012). This stated that design development work is underway for this £3 billion programme. The award of two major contracts was announced on 25 September 2012.

b) Strategic Development Plan Actions

Action	Progress
Action 22: Upgrading of Perth rail and bus stations and associated links to city centre.	The Perth Interchanges Study is scheduled for completion in March 2013.
Action 24: Improved road/ rail connectivity including inter-modal rail freight facilities at Montrose.	The South Montrose Consultancy Study is now complete.
Action 25: Improved road/ rail connectivity including inter-modal rail freight facilities at Dundee.	The road link feasibility study is now complete.
Telecommunications – implementing high speed broadband across the region.	Initial work has been carried out in Dundee by BT. The high speed internet connection was implemented in December 2012. BT's £2.5bn roll-out programme is on-going.
Rail enhancements between Edinburgh and Perth.	At present work is still progressing on this project and the current programme indicates that this should be completed by 31 March 2014.
Establish a TAYplan wide Housing Market Partnership.	TAYplan's Housing Market Partnership was formed in 2012 and is now in operation.

c) Actions for Local Development Plans (LDPs)

Action	Progress
a) Define the undeveloped coastline in more detail through LDPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angus Council <p>Work being undertaken to establish a methodology that would give consistency on this.</p>

Action	Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dundee City Council Limited, if any undeveloped coastline in Dundee. • Fife Council This will be defined through the Local Development Plan. • Perth & Kinross Council This has been defined through the Local Development Plan.
b) Undertake Flood Risk Assessments through LDPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angus Council Currently in discussion with SEPA with regards to their requirements. • Dundee City Council Supplementary Planning Guidance to be prepared. • Fife Council This will be undertaken alongside the Local Development Plan. • Perth & Kinross Council This will be undertaken between January-August 2013.

9 CONSULTATIONS

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

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Approved/Adopted TAYplan Action Programme (June 2012).
(<http://www.tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk/Approved%20Action%20Programme%202012%20v7%20Final%20low%20res.pdf>)
- 10.2 Circular 1/2009: Development Planning, Scottish Government
(<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/261030/0077887.pdf>)
- 10.3 Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006
(http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2006/17/pdfs/asp_20060017_en.pdf)
- 10.4 Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
(<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/01/20576/50663>)
- 10.5 Town & Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2008/426/contents/made>)
- 10.6 TAYplan Strategic Land use Change (2035-2050) Phase 1 Report
(http://www.tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk/llsley%20et%20al%20Tayplan%20Study%20Phase%201%20Report_final.pdf)

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