

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE, PERTH, ANGUS AND NORTH FIFE  
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY  
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 16th FEBRUARY 2011**

**REPORT ON: SDPA PROJECT PLAN UPDATE**

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**REPORT NO: SDPA05-2011**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Joint Committee on the progress of the preparation of the TAYplan Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and on an award submission.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The SDPA agreed project plan continues to be delivered on time without any substantial change. The Proposed Plan stage is the key stage for the SDPA. Following approval and ratification, an 8 week period for representations will provide interested parties the opportunity to support or object. Thereafter, representations will be considered and The Joint Committee in October 2011 will consider whether the Proposed Plan should be submitted to The Scottish Ministers without any modifications. After submission, an examination of the Plan will follow.

## **3 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is recommended that The Joint Committee:
- a) note that the Strategic Development Plan is being delivered in line with the approved Project Plan timescales.

## **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The financial implications of delivering the Plan are set out in the budget report (Report 04-2011: SDPA Budget Update) on this agenda.

## **5 PROJECT PLAN UPDATE**

- 5.1 The project plan, as updated by the Joint Committee in November 2010 (Report SDPA10-2010: Project Plan Update), continues to be delivered on time. There have not been any delays in preparing the Proposed Plan and all the related assessments and documents.
- 5.2 TAYplan is now at a key stage, with the Proposed Plan setting out the Strategic Development Planning Authority's view of what the Plan should contain. Subject to approval by The Joint Committee and ratification by the 4 Constituent Councils, the next stage will be the period for representations to be made.

- 5.3 Following this all the representations received will be considered. As outlined in the project plan update to the last Joint Committee meeting (Report SDPA10-2010: Project Plan Update) this work requires to be undertaken over a 4-6 week period commencing immediately after the period closes for representations. Additional resource will be provided through the Constituent Councils to assist the TAYplan core team in undertaking this task, alongside the other work streams.
- 5.4 All of the representations received will be grouped relating to the issue. Representations will be sought via a questionnaire and this is expected to set out these groupings around the vision and objectives, followed individually by the 8 policies/proposals with a general question at the end. Grouping the issues in this way, together with online submissions, will greatly assist in the achieving that stage of the project plan within the timescales.
- 5.5 Consideration will be given as to whether TAYplan wish to make any modifications to the Proposed Plan in light of representations received prior to submission. The Scottish Government (Circular 1/2009: 'Development Planning', para. 58) highlights that *'from the Proposed Plan stage, Scottish Ministers expect the authority's priority to be to progress to adoption as quickly as possible'*. The Circular strongly points out that that *'modifications can cause significant delays and should not be undertaken as a matter of course, but only where the Authority is minded to make significant changes to the Plan'*. The Circular goes on to advise *'The examination also provides an opportunity to change the plan, so if authorities see merit in a representation they may so in their response to the reporter, and leave them to make the appropriate recommendations'*. The Joint Committee will consider whether any modifications should be made in October 2011.
- 5.6 On the basis of no modifications being made, it is expected that the Proposed Plan, on approval, can be submitted to The Scottish Ministers in late December 2011/early January 2012. If an examination is to be held this would fall into the early part of 2012, with a decision anticipated on the Strategic Development Plan by December 2012 (possibly as early as July 2012).
- 5.7 The examination procedure is new for Strategic Development Plans in Scotland and it is likely that the TAYplan Proposed Plan will be the first of such plans to be examined. The TAYplan Manager has been liaising with The Scottish Government to ensure that the processes are aligned to the requirements for submitting all documentation to Ministers. Discussions are also ongoing with the other 3 Strategic Development Planning Managers in Scotland to avoid duplication in respect of process design etc.
- 5.8 Early work for the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Development Plan for the TAYplan area is programmed to commence in mid 2012.

## **6 Project Plan: Key Stages**

6.1 The next key stages in the Project Plan are outlined below:

- Joint Committee consider Proposed Plan, Proposed Action Programme and Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment for period of representations (8 weeks) together with formal response to comments received to Main Issues Report consultation and other related documents (16 February 2011);
- Ratification of decisions/approval by the 4 Constituent Councils (by 13 May 2011);
- Publish updated Development Plan Scheme (February/March 2011);
- Publish Proposed Plan, Proposed Action Programme and related documents together with response to comments on Main Issues Report (June 2011);
- 8 week period for representations on Proposed Plan Proposed Action Programme and Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (6 June-1 August 2011);
- Overview of representations received, grouped into key issues (August 2011);
- Prepare note on representations/unresolved issues (September 2011);
- Joint Committee consider Proposed Plan, Proposed Action Programme and related documents for submission (25 October 2011);
- Ratification of decisions by the 4 Constituent Councils (by 16 December 2011);
- Printing of documents (16-23 December 2011);
- Submission of Proposed Plan, Proposed Action Programme, Environmental Report and related documents to The Scottish Ministers (by January 2012);
- Examination of Proposed Plan and thereafter Ministers consideration of examination report and decision (Ongoing through 2012);
- Approval of Plan (anticipated by end December 2012);
- Publish approved documents (within 3 months of the Scottish Minister's decision); and,
- Adopt Action Programme and publish within 3 months of the Strategic Development Plan being approved.

## **7 SCOTTISH QUALITY IN PLANNING AWARDS 2010**

7.1 A submission to the Scottish Quality in Planning awards was made last year on the TAYplan Main Issues Report. The Scottish Government have recently advised that an award has been achieved (either a certificate of Commendation, Award or Overall Winner's trophy). This is excellent news for TAYplan and is testament to the quality of work that has been delivered by the core team with the support of the Constituent Councils and the key stakeholders working closely in partnership. The award ceremony is in early March 2011. TAYplan will be represented by Cllr Beare (Convenor), Cllr Kellas (Vice-Convenor), TAYplan Manager and the core team.

## **8 CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 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.

## **9 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 Report SDPA10-2010: Project Plan Update, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010.
- 9.2 Circular 1/2009: Development Planning, The Scottish Government, February 2009.

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3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011