

REPORT TO: DUNDEE, PERTH, ANGUS AND NORTH FIFE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 4th OCTOBER 2016

REPORT ON: UPDATE ON STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT BY: GORDON REID, ACTING STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN AUTHORITY MANAGER

REPORT NO: SDPA 12-2016

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Joint Committee on the staffing arrangements for the Strategic Development Planning Authority

2 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Since the departure of the Strategic Planning Manager in September 2015 the post has been filled on a part-time basis by appropriately qualified officers from the constituent councils. This arrangement has been possible due to the particular stage in the Development Plan preparation process at this time. With the publication of the Planning Review and the initial response by Scottish Ministers the TAYplan Board have decided to continue to fill the post on an interim basis. This post will be filled in the interim by the Head of the Tay Cities Deal, who is co-located with the TAYplan team. This will be kept under review as the proposed changes to Strategic Planning are brought forward by Scottish Ministers.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee:
- a) Note the continuation of the interim arrangements for the TAYplan Manager post.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The continuation of the interim arrangements for the TAYplan Manager post have contributed to a total saving of circa £52,000 on the staffing costs set out in the budget for 2016/17.

5 INTERIM STAFFING ARRANGEMENT

- 5.1 Following the departure of the TAYplan Manager in September 2015 the Board decided to fill the Managers post on an interim basis pending the outcome of the Planning Review. The position has been filled by appropriately qualified officers from the constituent authorities on a part-time basis (2 days a week) on a 6 monthly cycle. This has worked satisfactorily given the stage in the plan preparation process. The interim arrangements have had no impact on the

project plan timescales with the submission of the Proposed Plan for Examination by Scottish Minister on time.

- 5.2 The Planning Review Panel published their findings in May 2016 and set out a range of recommendations. These recommendations included proposals to change the approach to Strategic Development Planning. (Report SDPA10-2016 *Planning Review* refers to Recommendations). Scottish Ministers have published their initial response to the recommendations and has advised that they intend to publish a White Paper in the Autumn of 2016. From the recommendations of the Review Panel and Scottish Ministers initial response it is likely that there will be changes made to the Strategic Planning System. These will become clearer with the publication of the White Paper and as Ministers publish further details of their responses to the Review Panels recommendations.
- 5.3 Given the current lack of clarity about the future role of the Strategic Planning the Board have decided that a further period of filling the Managers Post on an interim basis would be appropriate.
- 5.4 The post will be filled on a temporary basis by the Head of the Tay Cities Deal who is now co-located with the TAYplan team. This provides an opportunity to tie the work of both TAYplan and the Tay Cities teams. It also provides flexibility to make any required staffing changes as the future of Strategic Planning becomes more certain.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 TAYplan's Treasurer and Clerk; Angus Council's Director of Communities Directorate; Dundee City Council's Executive Director of City Development; Fife Council's Executive Director, Enterprise & Environment; and Perth & Kinross Council's Executive Director (Environment) have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Report SDPA10 2016 Planning Review
- 7.2 Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
(<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/01/20576/50663>)
- 7.3 Town & Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008
(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2008/426/contents/made>)
- 7.4 Circular 6/2013: *Development Planning*, Scottish Government
(<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0044/00441577.pdf>)
- 7.5 Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006
(http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2006/17/pdfs/asp_20060017_en.pdf)

Gordon Reid
Acting Strategic Development Plan Authority Manager
20 September 2016