

ABERDEEN, 27 June 2018. Minute of Meeting of the STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY.

Present: Councillor Marie Boulton, Chairperson; Councillor John Cox, Vice-Chairperson; and Councillors Aitchison, Bell, Copland (as substitute for Councillor Cooke), A Forsyth (as substitute for Councillor Topping), Johnston, Macdonald (as substitute for Councillor Grant), Mollison (as substitute for Councillor Latham), Wallace and Yuill.

Officers: **Strategic Planning Authority:** Ms C McArthur, Acting Team Leader and Mr T Walsh, Senior Planner.

Aberdeen City Council: Ms G Beattie, Interim Chief Officer, Strategic Place Planning, Ms E Carlisle, Team Leader, Planning and Environment, Mr D Dunne, Senior Planner, Strategic Place Planning and Mrs K Lines, Committee Services.

Aberdeenshire Council: Mr B Allan, Accountant, Ms M Greig, Senior Information and Research Officer, Mr B Stewart, Planning Service Manager and Ms S Stuart, Economic Development Marketing and Events Officer.

Audit Scotland: Ms A MacDonald.

ORDER OF AGENDA

1. The Chairperson proposed that item 8 on today's agenda (Unaudited Statement of Accounts 2017/18) be brought forward and considered with item 6 on today's agenda (Budget Monitoring Position as at 31 March, 2018).

The Authority resolved:

to concur with the Chairperson's proposal (article 7 refers).

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

2. There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

3. The Authority had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 21 March, 2018 for approval.

The Authority resolved:

to approve the minute.

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**RESPONSES TO THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN MAIN ISSUES REPORT
2018**

4. The Authority had before it a report which provided an update on the recent public consultation on the Strategic Development Plan Main Issues Report.

The report recommended:

that the Strategic Development Planning Authority:

- (a) note the activity undertaken by officers to consult on the Strategic Development Plan Main Issues Report;
- (b) note the responses received to the Main Issues Report consultation; and
- (c) instructs the Strategic Development Planning Authority Acting Team Leader to continue preparation of a Proposed Strategic Development Plan and report progress on the Plan to the next meeting of the Strategic Development Planning Authority in August 2018.

Ms Claire McArthur, Acting Team Leader, SDPA spoke to the report and provided details on the consultation process. Ms McArthur referred to the high number of responses received with regard to Spatial Strategy, particularly highlighting the possibility of expansion to the western side of Aberdeen city following the development of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR). The Authority was advised that the housing elements of the consultation had produced a high number of responses and concerns were raised about 'stockpiling' of land for potential developments which were unlikely to be developed due to economic reasons, however the Scottish Government was encouraging delivery of planned developments within tighter timescales; the Land Audit would provide details of whether developments were being delivered and their timescales. Ms Gale Beattie, Interim Chief Officer, Strategic Place Planning, Aberdeen City Council advised that sites where development was delayed differed between the City and Shire in terms of lack of existing infrastructure and sizes of proposed development sites.

Ms McArthur advised that feedback from the consultation had highlighted issues that applied to both local authorities and that this feedback would be incorporated in to information sessions that were due to be held for the City and Shire Councillors.

The Chairperson thanked officers for their work during the consultation period and for the report and made reference to the strong level of community engagement.

The Authority resolved:

- (i) to approve the recommendations contained within the report; and
- (ii) to thank officers for their work in undertaking and evaluating the consultation process.

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HOUSING LAND AUDIT 2018

5. The Authority had before it a report which advised members of the 2018 Housing Land Audit and its implications for the housing land supply position.

The report recommended:

that the Strategic Development Planning Authority:
note the contents of the 2018 Housing Land Audit.

Ms Mel Greig, Senior Information and Research Officer, Aberdeenshire Council, spoke to the report and advised that the audit had highlighted there was a sufficient supply of available land to fulfil the five year development plan for both the City and Shire. Ms Greig advised that the results of the Land Audit were published on the websites of both local authorities and were also submitted to the Scottish Government and circulated at a national level. Ms Greig further advised that in the event that the cost of houses fell which might place a higher demand on new developments the availability of land for development would still fulfil the five year requirement. In response to a question from Councillor Sandra Macdonald, Ms Greig confirmed that student accommodation was excluded from the Housing Land Audit.

The Authority resolved:

- (i) to approve the recommendation contained within the report; and
- (ii) to thank officers for their work in preparing the report.

ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2017/18

6. The Authority had before it the 2017/18 Annual Audit, undertaken by Audit Scotland which outlined the audit work undertaken to provide an opinion on the Authority's financial statements.

The report recommended:

that the Strategic Development Planning Authority:
note the Annual Audit Plan.

Ms Anne Macdonald, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland, spoke to the report and provided background information on the audit process and its remit to ensure financial sustainability, good governance and transparency of the Authority.

The Authority resolved:

to note and approve the Annual Audit Plan.

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**BUDGET MONITORING POSITION AND UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
2017/18**

7. Following the decision taken by the Authority (article 1 of this minute refers) the Authority had before it the (a) Budget Monitoring Position as at 31 March, 2018; and (b) with the Unaudited Statement of Accounts 2017/18.

The reports recommended:

That the Strategic Development Planning Authority:

- (a) notes the budget monitoring position as at 31 March, 2018; and
- (b) considers the Unaudited Annual Accounts for 2017/18.

Mr Brian Allan, Accountant, Aberdeenshire Council spoke first to the Budget Monitoring Position report and advised that the invoice for legal expenses relating to a legal challenge at the Court of Session had yet to be received and had been included in the forecast for the 2017/18 budget.

The Authority resolved:

to note the budget monitoring position as at 31 March 2018.

Mr Allan then spoke to the Unaudited Statement of Accounts 2017/18 and advised that the accounts would be presented to External Audit for approval and would be brought back to the meeting of the Authority in September 2018 for approval. Mr Allan advised that the unaudited accounts would be published on the SDPA's website.

The Authority resolved:

to note the unaudited annual accounts for 2017/18 and the update provided.

SDPA BULLETIN

8. The Authority had before it an information bulletin by the Strategic Development Plan Authority which informed members on key issues relating to the work of the Authority.

Details contained within the bulletin included:-

(1) Planning Bill Update

Mr Tom Walsh, Senior Planner, Strategic Development Planning Authority, advised that a response had been submitted in response to the Scottish Government's Local Government and Communities Committee's 'Call for Evidence' as part of the Scottish Government's review of the planning system and that Stage 2 of the Bill would take place over the summer of 2018, the outcome of which would be reported back to the September meeting of the SDPA.

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(2) Local Development Plan Update

The Bulletin provided background details of progress of the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Local Development Plans and Mr Walsh advised that a report would be submitted to the SDPA for consideration before the end of 2018.

(3) Strategic Transport Appraisal

Mr Walsh advised that following the award of a City Region Deal in 2016, a pre-appraisal study had been undertaken to consider long term transport requirements across the region; he explained that the completion of major transport infrastructure projects would necessitate further work to review the impact of these infrastructure projects on travel patterns around the region. Mr Walsh highlighted that the transport planning objectives (TPOs) outlined within the report aimed to improve levels of sustainable transport and that sustainable transport options should focus on inclusion for all users and providing a safe and robust transport network.

The Authority resolved:
to note the bulletin report.

MEETING DATES

9. The Authority had before it proposed dates for future meetings of the Strategic Development Planning Authority.

The Authority resolved:
to note the proposed dates.
- **Councillor Marie Boulton, Chairperson.**

