

7 THE FINALISED PERTH AND KINROSS STRUCTURE PLAN (AN110-2003)

The Scottish Ministers have notified Perth and Kinross Council of the draft modifications to the Perth and Kinross Structure Plan. Members will recall that Dundee City Council formally objected to Sustainable Communities Proposal 1 (the proposed new village at Errol) and made representations in respect of Sustainable Economy Proposal 3 (the possible development of Errol Airfield as a commercial airport) (Report No 714-2002).

The City Council will be pleased to note that the Scottish Ministers' Modifications remove Sustainable Communities Proposal 1 from the Plan, the reasons for which are given as:

"This proposal cannot be justified in either economic or housing need terms. It is contrary to the environmental and sustainable objectives of the Structure Plan as set out in Chapters 2 and 3. The proposal is also contrary to national guidance, particularly NPPGs 3 and 17, Scottish Executive Policy on protection of prime agricultural land, sustainable development and other environmental policies. The proposal has also received widespread objections from local residents and neighbouring Councils".

In respect of Sustainable Economy Proposal 3, a draft modification makes it clear that "such a speculative proposal will have to be subject to national aviation strategy and can only be supportable within the context of the forthcoming Aviation White Paper to be published in autumn 2003". This modification is supported.

In terms of other draft modifications an issue arises in the case of Modification 6, which relates to the proposed "agri-science park" at the Scottish Crop Research Institute at Invergowrie. Its significance lies in its requirement that any potential access required to the A90 (T) would be by means of a grade separated junction. This is inconsistent with a similar Modification inserted into the Approved Dundee and Angus Structure Plan which relates to new junction provision on the A90 (T) to the west of the Swallow roundabout between Dundee and Perth. In that instance the wording of the Modification does not explicitly require a new junction to be grade separated but indicates that consideration should be given to this possibility.

Accordingly, it is recommended that the Director of Planning and Transportation be authorised to object on behalf of the City Council to the Scottish Executive. This objection will request that the Modification is revised to reflect that of Modification 9 of the approved Dundee and Angus Structure Plan which offers appropriate flexibility to allow other types of junction to be considered in this location.

Members should note that an objection in similar terms will be submitted on behalf of the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan Panel