

**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE –
16 APRIL 2007**

**REPORT ON: DUNDEE AND ANGUS JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN PANEL -
FORMAL DISSOLUTION**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 188-2007

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To formally dissolve the present Dundee and Angus Structure Plan Panel and prepare for a new 'Strategic Development Planning Authority' (SDPA) for Dundee City Region as required under the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee;
- a agrees to formally dissolve the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan Panel in its present format.
 - b agrees to establish a 'Shadow Strategic Development Planning Authority for Dundee City Region' to allow work to progress over the next 12 months. The 'Shadow Authority' would be comprised of 3 Elected Members from each of Dundee, Angus Fife and Perth and Kinross Councils.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report.

4 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Sustainability

Strategic Land Use Planning is fundamental to the aims of Sustainability Policy and the proposed Strategic Development Plan Authority will contribute directly and substantially to the achievement of all such aims both within Dundee City Region and beyond.

4.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Any future Strategic Development Plan for Dundee City Region will be required to fulfil all the requirements of SEA.

4.3 Anti-Poverty

A Strategic Development Plan will contribute positively to the Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy by positively encouraging economic growth within the City Region.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No equal opportunities are associated with this report.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Dundee and Angus Structure Plan Panel was formally established by the Planning and Transportation Committee of Dundee City Council at its meeting of 30 September 1996 in association with its counterpart Committee in Angus Council to oversee the preparation of the Joint Dundee and Angus Structure Plan, as required by legislation at that time (Report 349/96 refers).
- 6.2 The Committee will recall that a report on the White Paper "Modernising the Planning System" (504-2005 refers) in September 2005 recommended that early action take place in order to be able to 'hit the ground running' when the new planning system is introduced and that it may be necessary to initiate some form of 'Shadow Authority' capable of taking forward the proposed 'Strategic Development Planning Authority' aspects of the White Paper proposals.
- 6.3 The Planning etc (Scotland) Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament in December 2006 and now formally puts into place the provisions for a new system of development planning in Scotland as outlined in the White Paper. A draft timetable for implementation of the Act prepared by Scottish Executive officials, however does not envisage the implementation changes to support the formation of SDPAs until summer 2008.
- 6.4 In the meantime there is a considerable amount of preparatory work that could be undertaken in advance of this. It is important, however, in order for this work to be meaningful, that it is carried out with the full support and consensus of all the authorities involved.
- 6.5 It is proposed, therefore, to constitute such a Shadow Authority to supersede the former Dundee and Angus Structure Plan Panel and to direct and oversee appropriate actions that would allow early progress to be made in this area while further details in the form of Consultations and Secondary Legislation are promoted by the Scottish Executive.
- 6.6 In the first instance it is proposed that the Shadow Authority – to be known as the 'Shadow Strategic Development Planning Authority for Dundee City Region' – be comprised of an equal number of elected members from Dundee, Angus, Fife and Perth and Kinross Councils. At this stage 3 members from each of the Councils would seem to be appropriate.
- 6.7 All decisions made by the Shadow Authority would require to be ratified by the appropriate committees of the constituent authorities.
- 6.8 It is also proposed that any costs incurred in carrying out any necessary survey, data collection or consultancy work on behalf of the Shadow Authority be equally divided between the constituent authorities.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The provisions of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 introduce a new system of development planning in Scotland.
- 7.2 More detail of the operation of this system is still to be forthcoming from the Scottish Executive in the form of advice and secondary legislation.

- 7.3 In the interim however it is proposed to constitute a 'Shadow Strategic Development Planning Authority for Dundee City Region' to contribute to the formation and development of the new system locally.
- 7.4 A Report in similar terms will be put before Angus, Fife and Perth & Kinross Councils for approval.

8 CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Making Development Plans Deliver: A Consultation Paper Scottish Executive, April 2004
Modernising the Planning System, Scottish Executive, June 2005
Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006

Mike Galloway
Director of Planning & Transportation

Ian Mudie
Head of Planning

IGSM/IJ/ES

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Dundee City Council
Tayside House
Dundee