

**REPORT TO:** PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE –  
27 JANUARY 2003

**REPORT ON:** SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY 2 “ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT”

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

**REPORT NO:** 27-2003

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the publication of Scottish Planning Policy 2: Economic Development and outline some of its main provisions for land use planning in Dundee.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a notes the context set by the new Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) for the development plan and development control functions of the Council.
  - b notes that the recently approved Dundee and Angus Structure Plan affirms the principles established in the guidance.
  - c agrees that the Finalised Dundee Local Plan Review is in line with SPP2.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising for the City Council as a direct result of this report.

## **4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 SPP2 has implications for a wide range of key themes in Dundee 21. In particular, the transportation implications for new development affect the issues of sustainable development, access to facilities, services, goods and people is not achieved at the expense of the environment and are accessible to all.

## **5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Improved access and distribution of employment opportunities within the City is important in terms of equal opportunities and is fundamental to the strength of the economy. SPP2 is important in relation to subsequent development plans and development control functions, as these must ensure that economic development opportunities are provided in line with national policy.

## **6 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 Members of the Committee will recall that the Scottish Executive published a draft revision of the then National Planning Policy Guideline 2: “Business and Industry”, renamed “Economic Development” on 11 January 2002 for consultation purposes.

- 6.2 Dundee City Council made representations (Report 241-2002) that the Draft NPPG required better linkages to the implementation and strengthening of certain aspects.
- 6.3 As part of the review of the strategic planning system, Scottish Planning Policies are gradually being phased in to replace NPPGs. Scottish Planning Policy 2 (SPP) was published by the Scottish Executive in November 2002. The summary from SPP2 is reproduced as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 6.4 SPP2 endorses the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan strategy, particularly in relation to the strategic site and cluster developments. SPP2 states that planning authorities should “provide for special sites, particularly those of national significance and those which support the knowledge based economy”. In addition, there is strong support for providing a range of sites to meet diverse business needs for both new and existing businesses and the continual promotion of economic development. The publication of SPP2 has set an important context for the advancement of the Dundee Local Plan Review – see report no 48-2003.

## **7 CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Support Services, Director of Corporate Planning and Director of Economic Development have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

## **8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 Scottish Planning Policy 2: Economic Development.
- 8.2 Scottish Planning Policy 2: Overview of Consultation Responses.
- 8.3 Report No 241-2002 to Dundee City Council Planning and Transportation Committee, 29 April 2002.

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6 January 2003

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## APPENDIX 1

### SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY: SPP2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Summary

The Executive's vision set out in the Framework for Economic Development in Scotland, is that "economic development should raise the quality of life of the Scottish people through increasing economic opportunities for all, on a socially and environmentally sustainable basis". The planning system should provide strong support for economic development, both new and expanding businesses, where it is consistent with other national and local policies, in particular the promotion of social justice and sustainable development.

Many sectors of the Scottish economy have experienced changes in response to the global economy, and international trends. Further changes can be anticipated and the planning system should recognise and respond positively to market requirements and other aspirations for the economy, for example, the move towards a knowledge-based economy. It should also be sufficiently flexible to respond to new challenges and unpredicted demands. Although the nature and pace of some of them cannot be forecast with certainty, many growing businesses will be accommodated in existing or expanded premises or on existing sites.

Planning authorities should:

- Ensure that existing business locations are able to meet the anticipated changes in the economy and that they provide choice for a diverse range of economic developments. Provide for special sites, particularly those of national significance and those, which support the knowledge-based economy. Respond positively to firm proposals for corporate headquarters. Support existing and new small businesses. Provide for development in small towns and rural areas.
- Secure and support the delivery of sites for economic development in sustainable locations by identifying key locations that are highly accessible by public transport. Promote the re-use of previously developed sites and buildings in sustainable locations where these meet the requirements of particular sectors. Take account of the capability of information and communications technology (ICT) and the promotion of home-working to reduce the need to travel.
- Safeguard and enhance the environment, by requiring that new development is of a high design quality and protecting the natural and built heritage.
- Encourage a positive culture of engagement with business interests by promoting dialogue between all those involved with business development, the Enterprise Networks and Local Economic Forums.

The planning system has an important role to play in supporting a competitive Scotland by deciding planning applications for economic development in an efficient and consistent manner on the basis of positive and up-to-date plans.