

**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE – 9 JUNE 2008**

**REPORT ON: DUNDEE CITY REGION STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN AUTHORITY**

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

**REPORT NO: 274-2008**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To report the proceedings of the meeting of the Interim Joint Committee of the Dundee City Region Strategic Development Plan Authority which was held on 26 March 2008.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a agrees to endorse the remits of the Interim Joint Committee;
- b agrees to an allocation of up to £50,000 from the existing Planning and Transportation Budget to cover initial costs of establishing the Strategic Development Plan Authority;
- c agrees the draft documents required for the formally constituted Joint Committee included in Appendix II of this Report.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION**

3.1 The financial implications from this report are contained within the Planning and Transportation Budget.

## **4 BACKGROUND**

4.1 The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 establishes the new system of Strategic and Local Development Plans. In July 2007 a Consultation Paper (1) was published which identified four potential 'City Region Areas' around Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee for the purposes of preparing 'Strategic Development Plans' for these areas.

4.2 The Dundee City Region Area comprises the Local Authorities of Angus, Dundee Fife and Perth and Kinross. The Consultation Paper also provided guidance on other issues relating to the establishment of Strategic Development Planning Authorities such as Governance, Plan Boundaries and Resources.

In particular the Consultation Paper advises;

'Strategic development planning authorities should form a joint committee of members representing the constituent planning authorities.'

4.3 The consultation period for this Paper ended on 28 October 2007 and the Scottish Government intends to take the results of this, and a further Consultation Paper on the Draft Regulations on Development Planning (2) issued in October 2007, forward into Final Regulations to be published in the Spring of this year. The Parliamentary

timetable, however, means that these will not become law until October 2008 at the earliest.

- 4.4 On 11 September 2007 the four local authorities held a seminar in Dundee to discuss issues in relation to the creation of a Strategic Development Planning Authority issues. At that seminar it was agreed that, given the very tight timetable, it was important to progress as much as possible with the new planning process in the short term.
- 4.5 To achieve this a 'Shadow Authority' would be established to oversee progress until the necessary secondary legislation is in place to allow a Formal Committee to be constituted. This would comprise of an 'Interim Joint Committee' of 3 elected members from each of the Constituent Local Authorities.
- 4.6 These arrangements have now been confirmed with the publication of Circular 2/2008 – Statutory Guidance on Strategic Development Planning Authorities by the Scottish Government in April 2008.
- 4.7 The first meeting of the 'Interim Joint Committee' took place in Forfar on 26 March 2008 with a number of significant items on the agenda. The following Discussion Papers were presented to the Interim Committee;

'Constitution and Governance Arrangements' (Dundee City Council)

'Development Planning – Recent Consultation Papers' (Angus Council)

'Strategic Development Plan – Project Planning' (Fife Council)

The full papers from and Minute of the Committee meeting have been passed to each group leader and Baillie Borthwick.

At the meeting a number of important courses of action were agreed. Under the Interim Joint Committee's constitution all decisions must be referred back to the relevant committees of the Constituent Authorities for ratification. For clarity these remits are itemised in Appendix I of this report.

The Interim Joint Committee also remitted Dundee City Council to prepare the appropriate draft agreements and other documents required for the formally constituted Joint Committee and these are included in Appendix II of this report.

## 5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 An Interim Joint Committee for the Dundee City Region Strategic Planning Authority has been established in line with the advice of the Scottish Government to facilitate progress in the short term.
- 7.2 The inaugural meeting of the Interim Committee has agreed a number of courses of action that require, under current procedures, to be endorsed by this Committee.

6.2 A Report in similar terms will be put before Angus, Fife and Perth and Kinross Councils for approval.

6.3 The next meeting of the Interim Joint Committee will be on 16 June 2008.

## **7 CONSULTATIONS**

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

## **8 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,

Circular 2/2008 – Statutory Guidance on Strategic Development Planning Authorities the Scottish Government April 2008.

'Constitution and Governance Arrangements' (Dundee City Council)

'Development Planning – Recent Consultation Papers' (Angus Council)

'Strategic Development Plan – Project Planning' (Fife Council)

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2 June 2008

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## APPENDIX I

### DUNDEE CITY REGION STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN AUTHORITY

Items agreed at the meeting of the Interim Joint Committee of the Dundee City Region Strategic Development Planning Authority on 26 March 2008.

#### **Paper 1: 'Constitution and Governance Arrangements' (Dundee City Council)**

The Interim Joint Committee approved the interim arrangements as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the following amendments: -

- para 8.3 - a sentence to be added to this effect that "Such special meetings should be called within 14 days of the Clerk receiving a request in writing".
- para 7.1 - be amended to read "The quorum of the Interim Joint Committee should be six, provided that no less than three member councils are represented".

The Interim Joint Committee also remitted to Dundee City Council to prepare the draft agreements and other documents required for the formally constituted Joint Committee.

#### **Paper 2: 'Development Planning – Recent Consultation Papers' (Angus Council)**

The Interim Joint Committee agreed to -

- i note the broad range of recent consultation papers from the Scottish Government on development planning and related matters; and
- ii note that while there may be matters of detail between the formal consultation responses of the four constituent City Region authorities there were no significant areas of disagreement.

#### **Paper 3: Strategic Development Plan – Project Planning (Fife Council)**

The Interim Joint Committee agreed that -

- i a Strategic Development Plan Manager be appointed on a temporary basis (through secondment) until April 2009 or on appointment of permanent postholder, this to be taken forward by the Steering Group;
- ii the project be managed using the general principles of a Prince 2 environment in accordance with the recommendations set out in Section 4 of the report;
- iii if required, a consultant should be employed to assist in delivering the Project plan and related documents;
- iv that the Steering Group be delegated to make a submission to The Scottish Government seeking a minimum of £120,000 from the £400,000 fund to establish the SDP and related resources; and

- v a budget of £200,000 (of up to £50,000 per authority) to cover initial costs (including secondment, research, project management and other related work) to commence the SDP be recommended to partner authorities for approval.

With regard to recommendation (ii) it was agreed that whilst following a simplified version of the Prince 2 model would be helpful, a measured approach would be necessary to keep bureaucracy and costs to a minimum.

With regard to recommendation (iii) it was agreed that outside consultants would only be employed if it became apparent that the necessary expertise was not available within the constituent authorities and that this would be for as short a time scale as possible.

It was noted that time scales would require to tie in with the Committee timetables of the constituent authorities and a more detailed timetable would be helpful. It was also noted that Authorities might require to call special meetings in order to ensure that the required timescales are met.