

REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE - 24 APRIL 2000

**REPORT ON: COUNCILLOR INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT PLAN
PROCESS FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2000/2001**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 86/2000

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the Committee's approval to establish a working group of members to be specifically involved in the Development Plan production and consultation process for the City and its surroundings.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a Agree to develop a proposal on a formal basis for a working group as outlined with a remit and membership structure.
 - b Endorses the remit, and timetable for such a working group.
 - c Agrees the proposed membership and representation for such a working group.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Local Agenda 21 implications of this report are specifically covered by the key themes;
- “all sections of the community are empowered to participate in decision making”, and
- “access to the skills knowledge and information need to allow everyone to play a full part in society.”

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are a large number of equal opportunities implications in the development plan preparation process and it is of fundamental importance that as wide as possible input is achieved from all sections of the community. Local members are an important link with the wider community and, in particular, disadvantaged groups.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The review of the Development Plan framework for Dundee City (Structure Plan, Local Plan and Urban Nature Subject Local Plan) is now being advanced. The

official Notice of Intention to prepare a replacement for the Tayside Structure Plan 1993 was approved by the Planning and Transportation Committee on 13 December 1999.

- 6.2 A consultation programme, plan and approach for Development Plan framework is now being developed. A key group in this process will obviously be the elected members of Dundee City Council.
- 6.3 There is already a joint Member Panel in existence specifically for the purpose of considering strategic matters in relation to the preparation of the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan. However, It is considered that, although the greater interest of elected members may well arise at the Local Plan level when matters, policies and proposals will touch more local issues, any approach as developed should jointly address both Structure Plan and Local Plan processes.
- 6.4 During the preparation of the Dundee District Local Plan (DDLDP) efforts and resources were invested in forums and focus groups across business, communities (geographic and sphere of interest) and elected members.
- 6.5 Members forums were held at the time the DDLP was being formulated and issues discussed. A series of four meetings with elected members were convened in the City Chambers. There was cross party representation at these meetings.
- 6.6 These sessions were extremely useful. They allowed for meaningful discussions outwith the committee chamber, and without a formal report or decision requirement in front of the individuals. Also individuals could range across matters, as they were raised by theme or by site away from their immediate territorial association.
- 6.7 In addition to attendance to the specific forums established for councillors, councillors could also attend the community based forums and a number indeed did so.
- 6.8 However, outwith the forums and for the remainder of the DDLP process, councillor involvement then reverted to the more formal arrangement with papers advanced at committees or in public meetings convened by local groups in response to proposals.
- 6.9 It is, therefore, deemed appropriate that the opportunities continue to be afforded for appropriate and interested Councillors to attend the meetings of various group such as Community Councils, the Business Forum etc, on the basis that they attend these meetings as observers.
- 6.10 In addition, however, it is suggested that a specific group of members be constituted to specifically contribute to the Development Plan preparation process.

Remit

- 6.11 It is recommended that this working group be given the following remit:

To assist and advise in the preparation, consultation and finalisation process for the Development Plan framework for the City of Dundee.

Timetable

6.12 The Council has already advertised that work has commenced on the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan and work on the Review of the Dundee Local Plan is expected to commence later this year. It is anticipated that the working group would meet at appropriate stages in the process, possibly every 2-3 months.

6.13 Composition

It is suggested that the group would comprise of eight members to be made up by three administration members, two majority opposition members, two minority opposition members and one Independent Member.

7 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Chief Executive, Directors of Finance, Support Services, Corporate Planning, Education, Social Work, Housing, Economic Development, Environment & Consumer Protection, Leisure & Parks, Neighbourhood Resources & Development, Arts & Heritage, Public Relations, the Legal Manager and the Chief Constable, have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 There are no relevant background papers to this report.

Mike Galloway
Director of Planning and Transportation

Keith Winter
Policy and Regeneration Manager

7 April 2000

KW/IJ/EH/LP1

Dundee City Council
Tayside House
Dundee