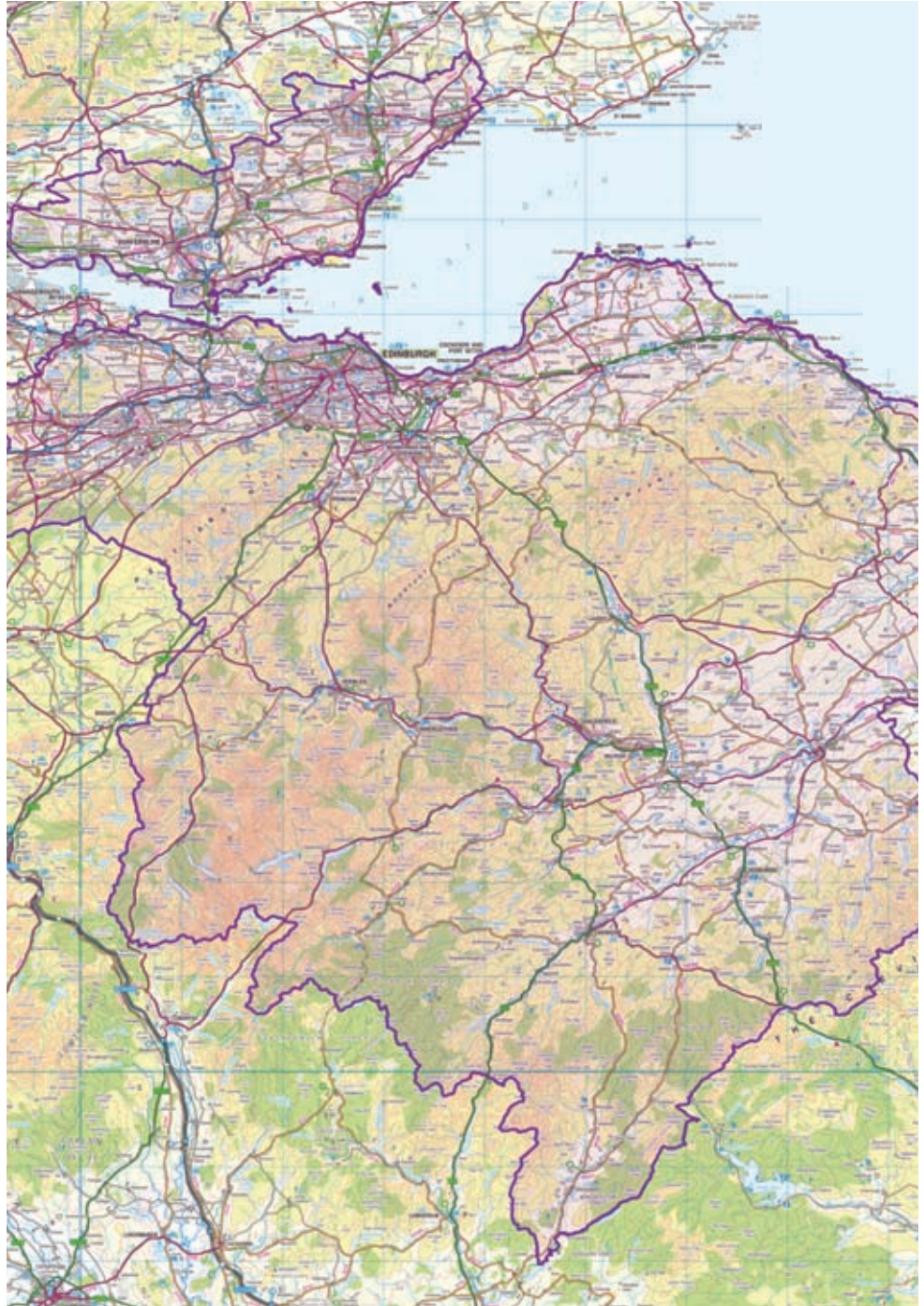


Development Plan Scheme

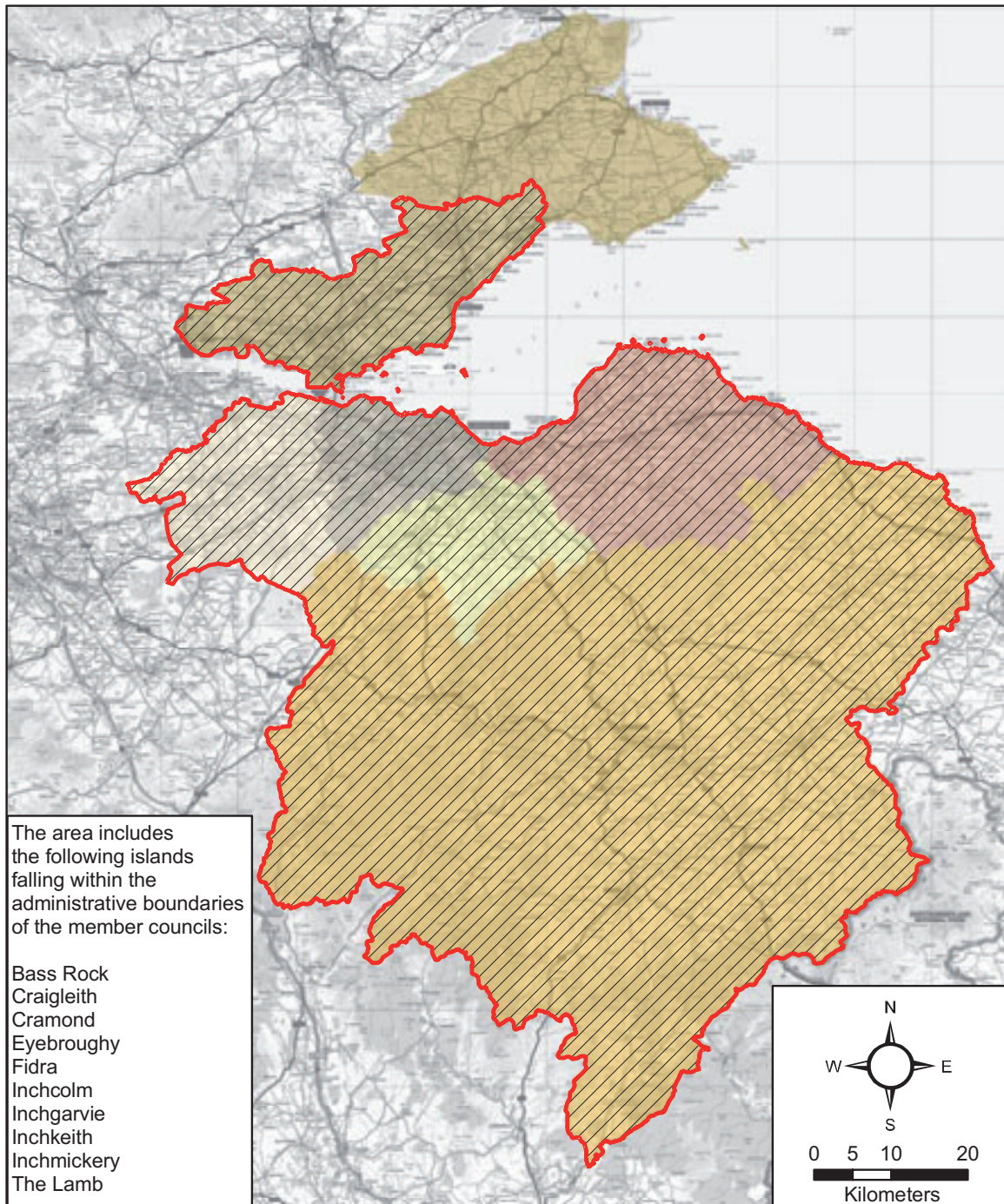
No. 1 - January 2009



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Edinburgh and South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan Area



Legend

	Strategic Development Plan area		Fife		West Lothian
	East Lothian		Midlothian		
	Edinburgh, City of		Scottish Borders		

Source: The Scottish Government

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Introduction

As part of the Scottish Government's proposals to reform the planning system, the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan Authority (SESplan) was designated by Scottish Ministers on 25 June 2008. It comprises City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, Fife, Scottish Borders and West Lothian councils. SESplan's main role is to prepare and maintain an up to date Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland area.

This SDP process will engage and work with key stakeholders and the wider community. When approved, the SDP will replace the existing Edinburgh and the Lothians Structure Plan, the Fife Structure Plan and the Scottish Borders Structure Plan.

This plan, arguably the most significant new development plan to be produced in the last 20 years, will cover a population of 1.2 million and 521,000 (2006) households; a population expected to grow by 12.5% from 2004-24, compared with less than 1% for Scotland as a whole.

The plan will enable and steer future development across the Edinburgh city region from 2012 to 2032. It will lay a sustainable growth path for South East Scotland through challenging issues, including the economic downturn and climate change.

What is a development plan scheme?

We are required by law – the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 – to prepare a development plan scheme (DPS). The DPS sets out our programme for preparing and reviewing the SDP. We will update the scheme every year to keep you informed about the SDP's progress.

The Scheme's parts:

- a summary of the new development planning system
- a proposed timetable for preparing our SDP
- a summary of what's involved at the various stages of preparing this plan
- a Participation Statement with information on when and how you can get involved

The secondary legislation (The Development Planning (Scotland) Regulations 2008, S.24 – laid before the Scottish parliament on 19 December 2008) requires the DPS timetabling information to specify the proposed year and month for the publication of our MIR, the publication of the Proposed SDP and its submission to Scottish Ministers.

What are development plans?

The planning system impacts on us all, either directly or indirectly. There is a statutory requirement to prepare development plans which are the basis for decision making on planning applications. They contain a strategy for the future development of an area and set out policies and proposals to guide the future development and use of land. The topics are not set but usually cover topics like the environment, housing, transport and infrastructure, economic development and retailing.

When the new system is introduced, on 29 February 2009, decisions on where and how development will take place in Scotland will be influenced by three statutory documents:

The National Planning Framework for Scotland: this is produced by the Scottish Government and sets out, at the national level, the Scottish Government's strategy for the country's spatial development, including schemes of national importance. NPF2 was published in December 2008.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/12/12093953/0>

A Strategic Development Plan: these will be produced by the new Strategic Development Planning Authorities (SDPAs) which have been set up for Scotland's four largest city regions. They set out a long term (20 years or more) spatial planning strategy indicating in broad terms where future development will be located and what's needed to deliver it.

A Local Development Plan: these will be produced by the local planning authorities and set out more detailed policies and proposals to guide development. These plans, which are adopted by the planning authority, must accord with the approved SDP (in the case of the city regions) and seek to implement its requirements on a site-specific basis.

The Strategic Development Plan and the Local Development Plan form the statutory Development Plan for the SESplan area. In addition, Supplementary Planning Guidance on a specific planning topic may be prepared and form part of the statutory Development Plan but only where it has been specifically trailed as needed in an SDP or LDP.



What development plans do we have at the moment?

The approved development plans for the SESplan area, at the strategic planning level, comprise the three existing Structure Plans: the Edinburgh and the Lothians Structure Plan 2015, the Fife Structure Plan 2001-11 and the Scottish Borders Structure Plan 2001-11.

The Edinburgh and the Lothians Structure Plan 2015

The Edinburgh and the Lothians Structure Plan 2015 was approved with modifications by Scottish Ministers on 17 June 2004. The most recent review of the structure plan was formally abandoned on 23 March 2007 in order to focus efforts on the preparation of the new Strategic Development Plan.

Fife Structure Plan 2001-2011 and 2006-2026

Fife's structure plan falls within two Strategic Development Plan areas; the Dundee, Angus, Perth and North East Fife SDPA (TAYplan) and our own SESplan SDPA. The approved Fife Structure Plan 2001-2011 is the statutory document against which proposals for development are considered. Whilst yet to be approved, the Finalised Fife

Structure Plan (2006-2026) has been submitted to and considered by Scottish Ministers. Scottish Ministers published proposed modifications on 9 December 2008 and placed them on deposit for a 9 week period for the submission of objections, representations and comments. When approved, this plan will supersede the 2001-2011 Structure Plan.

Scottish Borders Structure Plan 2001-2011 and Alteration

The Scottish Borders Structure Plan was approved in 2002. In June 2006, the Council began preparation of a structure plan alteration which largely focuses on revising the approved housing strategy. The Finalised Structure Plan Alteration was agreed by the Council in May 2008 and submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval on 22 July 2008. Scottish Ministers have yet to publish their recommendations.

You can get more information on current local plans, structure plans and timetables to prepare new-style local development plans on our member councils' web sites.



What are we going to do in the future?

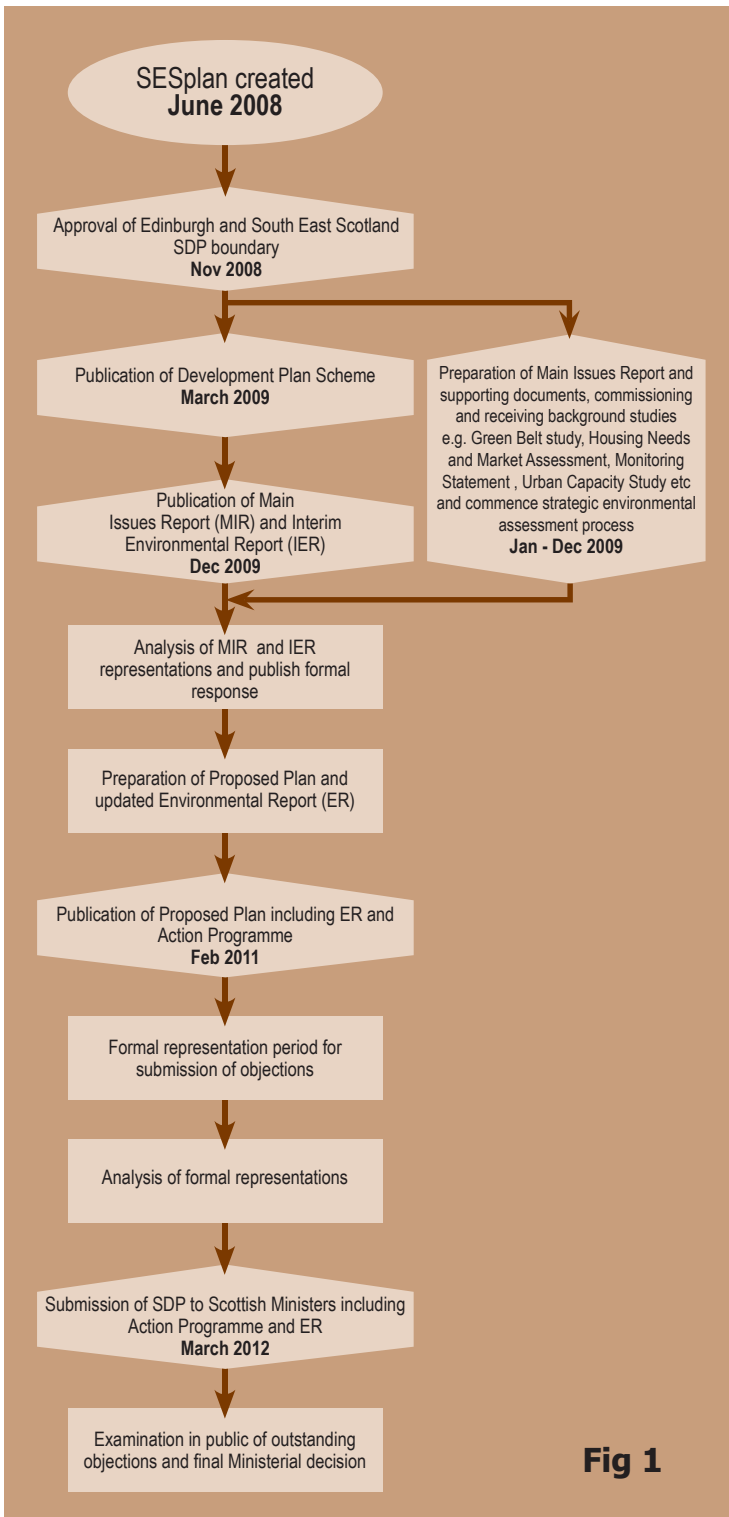


Fig 1

The Planning Act requires SESplan to set out a long-term development strategy for the future development of the Edinburgh city region through the production of the Strategic Development Plan.

There are various key stages, work streams and documents that are required as part of the SDP preparation process and these are illustrated in Figure 1 with an indicative time scale.

When will we update our DPS?

We will review our DPS every year. We will present an updated DPS to the SESplan Joint Committee in January 2010 and aim to publish it in March 2010. If there are significant changes to report in the interim then this could lead to an earlier update of the DPS.



The presented flow chart does not include a potential proposed modifications stage. If this is required then the timescales will have to be amended accordingly.

Participation Statement

Background

Under section 20B (4)(c) of the 2006 Act, SDPAs must include a Participation Statement (PS) in their Development Plan Schemes. It should set out when consultation is likely to take place, with whom, its form and the steps that we will take to involve the public in the SDP's preparation or review stages.

The Scottish Government sets out guidance on how the community can affectively engage in the planning process in Planning Advice Note 81: Community Engagement – Planning with People. Early engagement is defined as being the SDP's Main Issues Report (MIR) stage. But we intend, through the proposals set out in this participation statement, to extend our engagement proposals beyond the PAN's minimum requirement.

Current Consultation Programme

1.	Pre Christmas 2008 press release and launch.	Outcome: raised awareness of SDP process and set out in general terms the task that lies ahead, generated interest, and identified those parties that are interested in engaging in the SDP process.
2.	Spring 2009 Consultation.	Purpose: to obtain first input from interested individuals/organisations. Input will be obtained through a range of different techniques. For example, SESplan web site, organised events (workshops), meetings etc. SESplan may wish to seek views and facilitate discussion around a series of key issues; e.g. growth in principle, the level of growth, its location, measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, delivery. We aim to make sure the process is delivered efficiently by making it easy to make responses electronically, through the web site or other e-channels.
3.	End of 2009 Formal MIR Public Consultation.	Purpose: to seek views of individuals/organisations on the content of the published MIR – an opportunity to submit representations on the various SESplan development options for the SDP area, including the preferred development strategy.
4.	Spring 2010.	Publish formal response to comments on MIR
5.	February 2011.	Proposed SDP published and formal objection phase. Purpose: to give stakeholders and consultees the opportunity to submit formal objections to the plan. Any objections that can't be resolved through negotiation and are not withdrawn will be considered in a subsequent public examination (public inquiry/hearing).
6.	March 2012.	Submission of Proposed Plan to Scottish Ministers, including SESplan response to formal objections.

This reflects our current thinking but the timing and content of planned consultation stages are subject to unforeseen changes as our first SDP project unfolds, hence the need for an annual review process.

Keeping you informed

We will notify interested parties and stakeholders at periodic stages throughout the SDP process, but we want to do more than that and maintain a flow of project information. The main home for this real time information will be our web site at www.sesplan.gov.uk. This lets you register your details on the web site, and then be notified of any up and coming developments or events.

Groups of Consultees

Not all consultees/stakeholders will be interested in being or able to be involved in the SDP process to the same extent. It's also hard to reach out to and hear the views of some of the sectors of our regional community. We therefore propose to identify different groups of consultees and tailor their involvement to ensure the right amount and level of engagement.

Group 1	Partners Working on other 'Regional Planning' exercises Purpose: to ensure parallel regional exercises are aligned. Kept involved throughout the process and involved in the decision making process, including steering groups. May have a seat on the project board. Eg the regional transport partnership, SEStran, and its 8 member councils who are charged with reviewing the Regional Transport Strategy.
Group 2	Public Sector Delivery/Implementation Group: Purpose: To give regular input throughout the SDP preparation process. Close engagement throughout, involved in aspects of evidence base gathering and testing broad development scenarios. These would include key agencies such as Scottish Water, Transport Scotland, SEPA and SNH.
Group 3	Private Sector Reference Group Purpose: to make current market information and a cross-section of commercial views available to the project. To establish common ground on aspects of the evidence base. Restricted to broader issues to respect commercial sensitivity.
Group 4	Voluntary and Community Sector Purpose: To make the views of a cross-section of community and voluntary groups available to the project.
Group 5	The Public Purpose: to reach individual members of the public through newspaper advertisements, notices and articles and via the regularly updated web site. Engagement phases will be planned around the formal public consultation phases of the main plan stages, eg the Main Issues Report and Proposed SDP.

How can I get involved?

In the past some people have, for various reasons, not been able to, or have chosen not to, get involved in the strategic planning process. Because plans are broad brush it can be hard to see how they can affect local areas.

But it's vital we hear from a wide range of interests. So we want to make it as easy as we can to get people involved in our SDP project by making access to information and communication with us as straightforward as possible. There will be plenty of well-trailed opportunities for people to comment on our process and main plan stage outputs.

We plan to use a range of techniques, including:

- publicising a SESplan phone number and e mail address where you can ask questions about the SDP process and get a personal response
- providing a form so you can give us feedback at each stage of the SDP process
- keeping a record of everyone who responds in a database for newsletters or up and coming events
- publishing key documents on our web site
- providing paper copies of key plan stage documents at each SESplan partner authority library and council planning offices
- press releases and awareness-raising publicity drives at each key stage of the SDP process
- making translations of key documents into the main community languages available on request

If you want to be involved in the SDP process you can contact us by:

Phoning the project team on:

0131 524 5165

Lines open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, voicemail at weekends

Emailing us at:

contactus@sesplan.gov.uk

Writing to us at:

**SDP Team
SESplan
1st Floor
Hopetoun Gate
8b MacDonald Road
Edinburgh
EH7 4LZ**

Please note that while SESplan encourages your involvement electronically, communication via letter or telephone is still welcome.



You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats if you ask us. Please contact Interpretation and Translation Service (ITS) on 0131 242 8181 and quote reference number 09207. ITS can also give information on community language translations.



HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

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