

**Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative**

**25 August 2008**

**Report by Director of Planning and Economic Development, The Scottish Borders Council**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report sets out the background to the Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative (SSCI), and sets out the responses to the Scottish Government from within SESplan's member Council areas.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The SSCI is a Government initiative aimed at creating sustainable communities within the overall agenda to increase the rate of sustainable economic growth. The aim is to encourage exemplar developments through a comprehensive approach to sustainability, design and the creation of places. Successful proposals would benefit from support in progressing through the regulatory processes and for community engagement and masterplanning. A key requirement will be for proposals to have the support of both the public and the private sectors and ultimately for a decision to be reached through the planning system without Government involvement. Direct financial assistance from the Government towards SSCI proposals will not be generally available.
- 2.2 The Government announced the SSCI initiative in June 2008. All submissions should be the subject of discussion with the appropriate Local Authority and landowner. The proposals would be expected to explain how they contribute to identified housing requirements and the development plan strategy; what makes the projects sustainable; how the form, layout and building design contributes to quality and sustainability; and, how the projects will be delivered.
- 2.3 The Scottish Government requested any notes of interest to be sent to them by 6<sup>th</sup> August 2008, with submissions by 17 September 2008. The submissions are expected to be around 20 pages with a summary of their key attributes. They will be assessed by the Scottish Government. Successful submissions will receive no financial support but would have access to advisory support.

### 3 THE SSCI SUBMISSIONS WITHIN SESplan

3.1 The Scottish Government is not at this stage releasing details of the notes of interest submitted. Those notes of interest known and within the public domain for each of the member authorities are as follows-

- City of Edinburgh
  - Edinburgh Waterfront
- Fife
  - Lochgelly
  - Levenmouth
  - Kirkcaldy East/Dysart
- East Lothian
  - Blindwells (this is understood to be a landowner submission)
- West Lothian
  - No notes of interest endorsed by the Council
- Midlothian
  - Redheugh
- Scottish Borders
  - No notes of interest within the public domain

### 4 CONCLUSIONS

3.1 The proposals under the SSCI must meet the current development plan strategies within each of the member Council area. It would be anticipated that the Scottish Government would consult with the SDPA and the member Councils concerned during their consideration of any proposals. It should be noted that these and future proposals may be considered by SESplan through its preparation of its Strategic Development Plan.

### 4 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 **It is recommended that Committee**

**(a) notes this report,**

**(b) requests the Scottish Government to undertake further discussion with member Councils and the SDPA on any proposals within the SDPA area.**

### APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Map of Proposed SSCI Locations

### Background papers

1. Report to ESESSDP Joint Committee by Director of City Development, City of Edinburgh Council: "Creating the Edinburgh & South East Scotland SDP Joint Committee", 27 June 2008

