

# SESplan

The Strategic Development Planning Authority  
for Edinburgh and South East Scotland

## Development Plan Scheme 12 February 2020



## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The Development Plan Scheme (DPS) usually sets out the programme for preparing and reviewing the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for Edinburgh and South East Scotland. However, in light of the Proposed SDP2 being rejected by Scottish Ministers and requirements arising from the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, this is a simplified DPS which outlines the current SDP context for the region.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The South East Scotland Strategic Development Planning Authority was established in 2008 following the reform of the planning system in Scotland through the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. The South East Scotland Strategic Development Planning Authority (SESplan) is a partnership of six Local Authorities ('member authorities') including East Lothian Council, City of Edinburgh Council, Fife Council, Midlothian Council, Scottish Borders Council and West Lothian Council. SESplan's key role is to prepare and maintain an up to date Strategic Development Plan for the South East Scotland area.
- 2.2 SESplan is governed by a Joint Committee which comprises of 12 Councillors, two from each of the six member authorities. The Joint Committee, which meets at least twice a year, has as its main purpose the preparation, monitoring and review of the SDP.

## **3. Development Plans**

- 3.1 The planning system impacts on us all, either directly or indirectly. It is essential that everyone has an opportunity to get involved with the Development Plan in their area. In the SESplan area the Development Plan currently consists of the SDP covering the whole SESplan area (SDP1) and the Local Development Plans (LDP) covering the individual member authority areas. Under the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006, preparation of the SDP and the LDPs is a statutory requirement.
- 3.2 The SDP helps to identify areas of change and priorities for infrastructure and sets out a spatial strategy for the region which informs the LDPs. LDPs must be consistent with the SDP and therefore involvement in the SDP is important for shaping the future of the region.

## **4. Current Strategic Development Plan**

- 4.1 The first SDP was approved, with modifications, by Scottish Ministers on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013 following a thorough examination process.
- 4.2 SESplan's second Proposed SDP (SDP2) was submitted to Scottish Ministers for examination on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017. On the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018, the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) completed their examination. On the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019, SESplan received notification that Scottish Ministers had decided to reject the Plan for reasons relating to the adequacy of the supporting Transport Appraisal.

## 5. Status of SDP

- 5.1 SDP1 approved in June 2013 and associated Housing Land Supplementary Guidance adopted in October 2014, remains the extant development plan for the South East of Scotland until such time as new planning legislation comes into force.
- 5.2 The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 received Royal Assent in July 2019. The new Act removes requirements to prepare strategic development plans and requires the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies. Transitional arrangements will require to be published together with further secondary legislation setting out in more detail the requirements arising from the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 particularly in relation to the preparation of regional spatial strategies.
- 5.3 In the absence of an up to date SDP, SDP1 and associated LDPs provide the basis of approved/adopted policy on which to determine planning applications, until such time as they are replaced.
- 5.4 A Housing Land Position Statement was issued by SESplan in light of the rejection of the Proposed SDP2. It set out that the following documents can also be taken into account as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications:
- a) The policies of proposed SDP2 with the exception of those policies relating to transport infrastructure
  - b) The supporting material prepared in respect of SDP2
  - c) Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2
  - d) General Register Office predications on population growth
  - e) Housing Land Audits
  - f) The material contained within the Reporter's examination report.

## 6. SESplan going forward

- 6.1 Although there is no longer a requirement for any future SDP, the SESplan Joint Committee will continue until such time that new governance is set up and in place. On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 the City Region Deal Joint Committee approved a paper on governance which proposed arrangements for a Regional Growth Framework. This approach will capture the context of housing, transport and economy as the key drivers of sustainable growth. The Regional Growth Framework and the Planning Act mean that SESplan is reviewing its approach to regional spatial planning and how a Regional Spatial Strategy might be pursued. A Regional Spatial Strategy would need to be directed by the relevant authorities delegating that responsibility to a new body/new members.

## 7. Contact Us

The main way to keep up to date is through our website [www.sesplan.gov.uk](http://www.sesplan.gov.uk)

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