

MINUTE of MEETING of the SESplan JOINT COMMITTEE

held in the Diamond Jubilee Room, City Chambers, Edinburgh

on Monday, 25th November, 2019 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor John Beare, Fife Council (Convener)
Councillor Altany Craik, Fife Council
Councillor Maureen Child, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor Neil Gardiner, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor Jim Goodfellow, East Lothian Council
Councillor Norman Hampshire, East Lothian Council
Councillor Russell Imrie, Midlothian Council
Councillor Peter Smail, Midlothian Council

Apologies: Councillor Stuart Bell, Scottish Borders Council
Councillor Tom Miers, Scottish Borders Council
Craig McCorrison, West Lothian Council
Councillor Dom McGuire, West Lothian Council
Councillor Cathy Muldoon, West Lothian Council

In

Attendance: Iain McFarlane, City of Edinburgh Council
Paul Lawrence, City of Edinburgh
Robin Edgar, East Lothian Council
Pam Ewen, Fife Council
Peter Arnsdorf, Midlothian Council
Ian Aikman, Scottish Borders Council
Brian Frater, Scottish Borders Council
Fiona McBrierty, West Lothian Council
Wendy MacGregor, Fife Council (Clerk)

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ANY URGENT MATTERS

The Convener confirmed that he was not aware of any urgent business and that the order of business was as per the agenda.

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2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 30th SEPTEMBER, 2019**

The minute of meeting of 30th September, 2019 had been circulated.

DECISION

The Committee APPROVED the minute as a correct record subject to an amendment to include Councillor Altany Craik, Fife Council under apologies for absence.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

The Convener advised that matters arising in relation to the SESplan Budget and Regional Spatial Planning update, would be dealt with under items 6 and 8 on the agenda.

5. **SESPLAN OPERATING BUDGET: 2019/20 AND 2020/21 BUDGET**

There had been circulated a report by Pam Ewen, SESplan Board Chair presenting an update on the SESplan Operating Budget for 2019/2020 and setting out the SESplan Operating Budget for 2020/21 for Joint Committee approval.

DECISION

The Committee AGREED -

1. to note the updated forecast expenditure against the approved operating Budget for 2019/20 set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
2. to approve a rebate of £5,000 per each of the six constituent councils within the current 2019/20 financial year;
3. to approve the updated Operating Budget for 2020/2021 set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
4. to note that member contributions for financial year 2020/2021 were nil;
5. to note that member authorities would be required to ratify item 3 of the decision;
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6. to note that an Operating Budget for 2021/2022 would be brought to a meeting of the SESplan Joint Committee in late 2020; and
7. to request that the SESplan Board review the 2020/2021 Operating Budget costs for IT Hardware, Software and Maintenance and Audit/Professional Fees and to consider whether there is a more cost effective way of delivering the services.

6. LIAISON WITH SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Peter Arnsdorf gave a verbal update on discussions with officials from the Scottish Government.

DECISION

The Committee AGREED -

1. to note that a meeting with Scottish Government officials would take place on 17th December, 2019; and
2. to note that a briefing would be provided to the Committee after the meeting on 17th December, 2019.

7. REGIONAL SPATIAL PLANNING: UPDATE ON PROGRESS

There had been circulated a report by Pam Ewen, SESplan Board Chair presenting an update on progress of areas of work being taken forward to inform future regional spatial planning.

DECISION

The Committee AGREED –

1. to note the work areas being progressed;
2. to note that the six SESplan constituent Councils are in agreement to work in a regional grouping to progress an indicative regional spatial strategy through a Regional Growth Framework to inform NPF4, noting that the whole of Fife Council would be within this area;
3. that an update to the Committee members on emerging regional work, including transport and planning will be provided; and
4. that a briefing is arranged with Committee members in February 2020 on Edinburgh City Council's City Plan, and progress with the Regional Growth Framework.

8. APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER AND VICE CONVENER 2020-2022

There had been circulated a report by Fiona McBrierty, West Lothian Council, setting out a proposal for the appointment of the Convener and Vice-Convener of the SESplan Joint Committee over the two-year period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021 for agreement.

DECISION

The Committee agreed the appointment of Councillor Russell Imrie, Midlothian Council, as Convener, and Councillor Norman Hampshire, East Lothian, as Vice-Convener of the SESplan Joint Committee for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2021.

9. JOINT COMMITTEE DATES 2020

DECISION

The Committee agreed the following dates for meetings in 2020: Monday, 30th March; and Monday, 21st September.

10. AOCB

On behalf of the Committee members, Convener, Councillor Russell Imrie, Midlothian Council, conveyed his gratitude and appreciation to Councillor John Beare during his appointment as Joint Committee Convener and to Pam Ewen, Fife Council, as SESplan Board Chair for their work and excellent leadership skills over the period 2018/19.

Councillor John Beare, Fife Council, acknowledged that Brian Frater, Scottish Borders Council would be retiring from his position in 2020 and had been a member of the SESplan Joint Committee since its establishment. On behalf of the Committee, Councillor Beare wished Brian Frater well for his future retirement.

The meeting concluded at 3.00 p.m.