

MINUTE of MEETING of the SESplan JOINT COMMITTEE

held in the Diamond Jubilee Room, City Chambers, Edinburgh

on Monday, 30th September, 2019 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor John Beare, Fife Council (Convener)
Councillor Stuart Bell, Scottish Borders Council
Councillor Maureen Child, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor Neil Gardiner, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor Norman Hampshire, East Lothian Council

Apologies: Councillor Jim Goodfellow, East Lothian Council
Councillor Russell Imrie, Midlothian Council
Councillor Peter Smaill, Midlothian Council
Councillor Dom McGuire, West Lothian Council
Councillor Cathy Muldoon, West Lothian Council
Councillor Tom Miers, Scottish Borders Council

In

Attendance: Pearl Tate and Alison Clyne, Audit Scotland
Pam Ewen, Fife Council
Iain McFarlane, City of Edinburgh Council
Paul Lawrence, City of Edinburgh Council
Peter Arnsdorf, Midlothian Council
Brian Frater, Scottish Borders Council
Craig McCorrison, West Lothian Council
Robin Edgar, East Lothian Council
Andrew Ferguson, 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. He also indicated his intention to ask the Committee to approve the final accounts at item 6 of the agenda notwithstanding the delegation made at the meeting in June.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24TH JUNE, 2019

The minute of meeting of 24th June, 2019 had been circulated.

DECISION

The Committee APPROVED the minute as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Bell asked for an update on the matters decided at item 11 of the meeting of 24th June (SESplan 2: Way Forward). Ms Ewen confirmed that many of the actions outlined were linked to implementation of the 2019 Act, which was still to be confirmed. Mr Arnsdorf confirmed that, in terms of paragraph 4 of the decision, a letter had been sent to the Minister requesting a meeting but that no response had been received yet.

DECISION

The Committee NOTED the update.

5. AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND REPORT OF AUDIT 2018/19

There had been circulated a report by Peter Arnsdorf, SESplan presenting the SESplan audited accounts 2018/2019 for SESplan Joint Committee consideration. Notwithstanding the previous decision to delegate approval of the accounts to the Convener, Acting SDP Manager and Chair of the SESplan Project Board to finalise and sign the audited accounts, the Committee agreed to consider the accounts for approval as it had proved possible to present them at the current meeting.

Pearl Tate, Audit Scotland, spoke to the Auditor's report on the accounts.

DECISION

The Committee AGREED -

1. to note the SESplan audited accounts 2018/2019 attached as Appendix 1 to the report and approve their signature by the Convener, Acting SDP Manager and SESPlan Treasurer;

2. to note the Report of Annual Audit 2018/19, attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

6. EDINBURGH AND SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND CITY REGION DEAL EMERGING GOVERNANCE

There had been circulated a report by Iain McFarlane advising the Joint Committee of proposals for a Regional Growth Framework to form part of the governance and strategy for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and how this might interact with existing and emerging regional/strategic planning governance.

DECISION

The Committee AGREED -

1. to note the proposals for a Regional Growth Framework and a Spatial Planning Board to provide the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal with spatial planning input;
2. to note the requirement in the 2019 Planning Act for Regional Spatial Strategies to replace the current strategic planning arrangements;
3. to delegate to the Convener and Vice Convener to write to the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Executive Board setting out that:
 - the existing SESplan Officer Board will act as a strategic spatial planning consultative board in respect of progressing a Regional Growth Framework, Regional Spatial Strategy, informing NPF4.
 - In respect of the diagram (as set out in Appendix A of The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee 'Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Growth Framework', 3 September 2019) the box entitled 'sustainability' should be replaced with 'Strategic Spatial Planning' to reflect the need for spatial planning across all land uses.
 - In the report as referenced above, the Member Oversight Committee should have a scrutiny and advisory role to which the main outputs of officer work is reported.

7. **HOUSING LAND POSITION STATEMENT**

There had been circulated a report by Fiona McBrierty, West Lothian Council seeking approval of a position statement in relation to housing land which sets out those matters to be considered by the SESplan member authorities when determining applications for residential development which are considered to be contrary to the development plan.

DECISION

The Committee noted and agreed the terms of the Housing Land Position Statement, set out at Appendix One to the report.

8. **AOCB**

In response to a query from Councillor Gardiner, Ms Ewen confirmed that advice was being sought on how monies could be committed to work related to the proposed Regional Spatial Strategy which had been introduced by the 2019 Act, given SESplan's status. It was noted that a further report on this matter would be brought to the November meeting.

The meeting concluded at 4.00 p.m.