

ITEM 8 – REGIONAL SPATIAL PLANNING: UPDATE ON WORK PROGRESS

Report by: Pam Ewen, Chief Officer Planning, Fife Council and SESplan Board Chair

Purpose

This report provides an update on progress of areas of work being taken forward to inform future regional spatial planning.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the SESplan Joint Committee:

1. Note the work areas being progressed.

Resource Implications

The 6 constituent Councils are providing staff resource to the work areas identified within this report. The SESplan budget for 2020-21 projects spending in respect of consultancy work, as set out in the report to this Committee (Report SDPA 6: SESplan Operating Budget: 2019/20 and 2020/21 Budget).

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications arising from this report. Further details are awaited from the Scottish Government in respect of guidance on the new duties arising from the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 on the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies.

Policy and Impact Assessment

No assessment is required.

1. Background

- 1.1 The report to the last Joint Committee on Edinburgh and South East Scotland (ESES) City Deal Emerging Governance (30 September 2019) and the agreed recommendations, provided the context in which regional spatial planning work is to be taken forward to inform in the first instance a Regional Growth Framework and thereafter a Regional Spatial Strategy. This followed a project brief on ESES Regional Growth Framework being approved by the ESES City Region Deal Joint Committee on 3 September 2019. The SESplan Joint Committee agreed that that the SESplan Officer Board will act as a strategic spatial planning consultative board in respect of progressing a Regional Growth Framework, Regional Spatial Strategy and informing National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). This position was reflected in the report framed by the ESES City Region Deal Programme Management Office (PMO) which was used to update elected members in the 6 partner authorities and will complement the Regional Housing Board and Transport Appraisal Board constituted as part of the City Region Deal governance. These Boards will feed into the Elected Member Oversight Committee which is to be established and which will consist of two elected members per local authority area within the City Region Deal. The Elected Member Oversight Committee will oversee the Regional Growth Framework and Regional Spatial Strategy development and will advise the City Region Deal Joint Committee. Terms of reference for the Elected Member Oversight Committee are being developed to establish the Committee and enable partner authorities to appoint their respective members.
- 1.2 Whilst discussions continue to progress with the Scottish Government in respect of regional strategies to inform the forthcoming NPF4, a number of work areas are being taken forward. The Scottish Government in their publication on post-bill work programme (September 2019) have recognised that it will take some time to have regional spatial strategies in place (to which both National Planning Framework and Local Development Plans are to have regard to) and this will run beyond the timescale for NPF4. The Scottish Government will work with planning authorities to *“explore and develop approaches to regional spatial strategies and use this work to inform statutory guidance by Q4 2021 at the latest”*.
- 1.3 There is good progress on the preparation of a Regional Growth Framework. Constituent Councils and partners have identified staff to form a team to ensure that the essential disciplines are factored into consideration in an integrated and holistic manner in the development of a Regional Growth Framework. It is likely that a programme co-ordinator will be appointed to oversee the co-ordination of

this work. Discussions are taking place with the Scottish and UK Governments about the resourcing requirements of the programme co-ordinator role.

- 1.4 In respect of NPF4, Scottish Government have advised through their post-bill work programme, that work has commenced on this framework. Making arrangements for the content and procedures for preparing the NPF4 came into force on 8 November. It is intended that a draft of NPF4 will be consulted upon in Q3 2020 following a period of extensive engagement.

2. Work areas: Regional spatial planning

Housing Needs and Demand Assessment

- 2.1 The Joint Committee at its meeting on 30 September 2019 considered and approved a report on SESplan housing land position (Report 08: Housing Land Position Statement). To inform future regional spatial planning a review of the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment 2 will be required. This is a significant, lengthy and complex piece of research which is important to inform not just regional planning but also Local Housing Strategies.
- 2.2 Housing Needs and Demand Assessment 2 continues to be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. Work is being progressed to determine the scope, timing and cost of reviewing the housing assessment. This is being discussed across the constituent Councils (Planning and Housing) and ESES City Region Deal PMO.
- 2.3 The Scottish Government Centre for Housing Market Analysis provide guidance on housing needs and demand assessments, and discussions are also taking place to inform a decision on the most appropriate review.
- 2.4 The SESplan Board will determine the scope, timing and financing of this review and update the SESplan Joint Committee accordingly.

Transportation Appraisal

- 2.5 Consideration of any transport appraisal work across the City Region is being progressed through the ESES Transport Appraisal Board. Discussions are ongoing with Transport Scotland as to the modelling work which has/is being undertaken to inform the National Transport Strategy and what modelling

may be required to inform regional spatial planning. An update to the SESplan Joint Committee will be made accordingly at its next meeting.

SDP1 Action Programme

- 2.6 An update to the SDP1 Action Programme is being progressed. The Action Programme provides an update on key infrastructure projects required to support the plan strategy and may inform regional spatial planning moving forward.

3. Way Forward

- 3.1 Governance arrangements are being finalised taking account of the Joint Committee's decision on the report to last Committee on ESES City Deal Emerging Governance (Joint Committee report, 30 September 2019).
- 3.2 In parallel to this work is progressing on key areas to inform future regional spatial planning work.

Background Papers

1. Scottish Government publication 'planning: post-bill work programme', 30 September 2019
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/transforming-planning-practice-post-bill-work-programme/>

Appendices

None.

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