

ITEM 9 – RISK MANAGEMENT

Report by: Alice Miles, Acting SDP Manager

Purpose

This Report includes an update on risk management.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the SESplan Joint Committee:

1. Notes the update on risk management as set out within this Report.

Resource Implications

As set out below.

Legal and Risk Implications

As set out below.

Policy and Impact Assessment

No separate impact assessment is required.

1. Background

- 1.1 The SESplan Joint Committee at its meeting on the 7 March 2011, approved SESplan's approach to risk management requiring that an annual review and update of the Risk Register is considered and agreed by the SESplan Project Board and that a report on risk management based on the updated Risk Register is presented to the Joint Committee no later than December each year. This approach assists with project management and addresses a recommendation of the Annual Audit 2009 / 2010.

2. Risk Management

2.1 A report on the SESplan approach to risk management was considered by SESplan Joint Committee at its meeting in November 2017. This report contains an update on risk management as at November 2018.

2.2 The risk register has been updated by closing risks that are no longer applicable or current. The probability and impact scores associated with individual risks have also been revised to reflect the current stage of the programme. Of those risks that remain active, the following have a residual amber risk score.

2.3 The key project risks are summarised as follows:

- **The Examination, Timescales and Approval** – The second Strategic Development Plan (SDP2) was submitted for Examination within four years of the approval of SDP1 on the 26 June 2017 in accordance with statutory requirements. The DPEA submitted the Report of Examination to Scottish Ministers on the 20 July 2018. Scottish Ministers have an indicative timeline of two months to make a decision on the Plan; this was passed on the 20 September 2018. SDP1 is now considered out of date. The timescales for the approval of SDP2 are not in the control of SESplan.

2.4 The key operational risks are summarised as follows:

- **Resources** – The Core Team is currently made up of one permanent member of staff (0.86FTE). The post holder will vacate the position on the 4 January 2019. There will be no dedicated Core Team from 5 January 2019 onwards. There is a risk of insufficient resources to finalise SDP2 for publication, prepare the post Examination documents including SEA, Habitats Regulations Appraisal and Action Programme and undertake statutory requirements including governance and finance. The Project Board will assign resources from within member authorities as required and appropriate.
- **The Planning Bill** – As set out under Item 8 (Finance), the amended [Planning Bill](#) following Stage 2 of the parliamentary process was published on the 16 November 2018. For SDPs, the amended Bill refers to the preparation of an evidence report instead of a main issues report prior to the

preparation of an SDP. The Bill also refers to the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) being able to request that an adjoining local authority that is not part of the strategic authority provides relevant information to the evidence report for the SDP for their area.

Whilst the Bill has progressed, more detail on the work, role and remit of SESplan and the requirement for strategic planning beyond 2019 / 2020 other than the work programme referred to above and statutory requirements around audit, finance and governance is not clear. Timescales for Stage 3 of the Bill are not yet known. On that basis indicative Operating Budgets beyond 2019 / 2020 and future arrangement for staffing and resources have not been identified. Officers will continue to liaise with Scottish Government through direct discussions and via the SDPA Managers group.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The Risk Register will continue to be reviewed by the SESplan Project Board.

- 3.2 Annual reports on risk management will be presented to the SESplan Joint Committee by no later than December of each year. This report will highlight and summarise the main risks and additions to the Register.

Report Contact

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