

MINUTE of MEETING of the SESplan JOINT COMMITTEE

held via Microsoft Teams

on Monday, 21 September 2020 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Russell Imrie, Midlothian Council (Convener)
Councillor Norman Hampshire, East Lothian Council (Vice Convener)
Councillor John Beare, Fife Council
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 Peter Smaill, Midlothian Council
Councillor Stuart Bell, Scottish Borders Council
Councillor Tom Miers, Scottish Borders Council

Apologies: Councillor Dom McGuire, West Lothian Council
Councillor Cathy Muldoon, West Lothian Council
Peter Arnsdorf, Midlothian Council
Fiona McBrierty, West Lothian Council
Robin Edgar, East Lothian Council

In

Attendance: Iain McFarlane, City of Edinburgh Council
Craig McCorrison, West Lothian Council
Ian Aikman, Scottish Borders Council
Pam Ewen, Fife Council
Patricia Fraser, Audit Scotland
Gordon Aitken, Midlothian Council (Clerk)

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ANY URGENT MATTERS

The Convener confirmed that as relevant paperwork in relation to Item No 7 on the Agenda "Audit of SESplan And Accounts 2019/20" had not been circulated, a Special Meeting of the Committee would require to be arranged in order to consider this matter. Otherwise the order of business was as detailed within the Agenda.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

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

The minute of meeting of 16 March 2020 had been circulated.

DECISION

The Committee APPROVED the minute as a correct record.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

6. **PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK**

There had been circulated a report by Deborah Armstrong, Planning Officer, Scottish Borders Council, the purpose of which was to present the 2019/2020 SESplan Planning Performance Framework (PPF) to the Joint Committee for information.

DECISION

The Committee AGREED –

To note the SESplan Planning Performance Framework which had been attached as an Appendix to the report.

7. **Audit of SESplan and Accounts 2019/20**

Continued to a Special Meeting as referred to in Order of Business (Item No 2 above refers)

8. **INDICATIVE REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY**

There had been circulated a report by Robin Edgar, Acting SESplan Manager/Team Manager, East Lothian Council, presenting the indicative Regional Spatial Strategy for the South east of Scotland. The report outlined the purpose of the Strategy, summarised its content and recommended:-

1. Approve the indicative Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East of Scotland, attached as Appendix 1 to this report;
2. Direct the Chair of the SESplan Board to submit the indicative Regional Spatial Strategy to the Scottish Government as part of the National Planning Framework process; and
3. Directs the indicative Regional Spatial Strategy for ratification by the six SESplan Local Authorities.

DECISION

Councillor Imrie, seconded by Councillor Hampshire moved that the recommendations contained within the report as detailed above be accepted.

Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Child moved as an amendment in the following terms:

“SESPLAN Joint Committee thanks officers on the Board for the work done to shape an interim Regional Spatial Strategy and resolves that:-

A) Officers liaise with relevant Government officials to agree the short extension needed to finalise a focused Strategy

B) Officers are asked to rework the document presented today into a succinct statement of the cross-boundary issues of strategic significance - particularly those addressing infrastructure - which cannot be effectively tackled by individual authorities, which will be relevant for NPF4, and which will help make the regional economy and environment both sustainable and inclusive.

C) If necessary urgent meeting(s) of the JC will be convened to support this work at pace”

On a vote being taken 4 Members voted for the amendment and 6 for the Motion which accordingly became the decision of the meeting.

9. **SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND HOUSING NEED AND DEMAND ASSESSMENT 3 (HNDA3)**

There had been submitted a report by Vania Kennedy, Housing Service Manager, Fife Council updating the SESplan Joint Committee on a project to develop the third Housing Need and Demand Assessment for South East Scotland which would provide the evidence base for local housing strategies.

DECISION

The Committee AGREED

1. To Note the progress of the project to develop the third Housing Need and Demand Assessment for South- East Scotland.
2. To note the key project workstreams and consultations currently being carried out with the Housing Market Partnership.

10. **AOCB**

In response to a query raised by Councillor Bell, Craig McCorriston agreed to circulate to Members the anticipated timeline and associated information with regard to the implementation of the revised Planning Act.

The meeting concluded at 3.38 p.m.