

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE, PERTH, ANGUS AND NORTH FIFE
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 25th AUGUST 2009**

REPORT ON: PROJECT PLAN UPDATE

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REPORT NO: SDPA12-2009

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Joint Committee on the progress of the preparation of the TAYplan Strategic Development Plan and to provide a detailed Project Plan which seeks to deliver the submission of the Proposed Plan to The Scottish Ministers in January 2012 and approval by April 2013.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that The Joint Committee:
- a) note the Awareness Raising Initial Consultation has commenced; and,
 - b) approve the Project Plan, as set out in Appendix 1, as the basis of the Strategic Development Plan timescales.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The financial implications of delivering the Plan over the current budget year are set out in report SDPA 13-2009 on this agenda.

4 PROJECT PLAN UPDATE

- 4.1 The Project Plan as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, has been recently reviewed to take account of the Joint Committee's decision in May 2009 (Report 10-2009: Project Plan Update) to delay the programme by 4 months to take account of slippages particularly in respect of the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment research study.
- 4.2 The Awareness Raising Initial Consultation commenced on 10th August and runs until 18th September 2009 with comments being sought through an online questionnaire. An overview of the comments received will be presented to the next Joint Committee in November 2009.
- 4.3 The Project Plan sets out the proposed timescales of each main element to the publication of an approved Strategic Development Plan by April 2013. The proposed timescales are deliverable, albeit very challenging.

- 4.4 A key focus throughout the preparation of the Plan and its associated documents will be to keep the scope of the work proportionate and on cross boundary strategic land use issues. In doing so, the research and information informing the Plan and its process requires to be robust and credible, whilst providing enough detail to undertake the Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Project Plan assumes that there will not be the need for significant modifications to the Proposed Plan following the period of representation at that stage. The Main issues Report is the key stage of consultation and comments received will be taken into account in preparing the Proposed Plan.
- 4.5 The Scottish Government's Circular 1/2009 'Development Planning' sets out the normal process for a Strategic Development Plan and typical timings (page 31, figure 1 thereof). The suggested timings commence from the publication of the Main Issues Report through to publication of the Proposed Plan, Action Programme and other related documents. Table 1 below sets out the key stages of the Strategic Development Plan process and compares the typical timings suggested in Circular 1/2009 to the TAYplan Project Plan as appended. The Strategic Environmental Assessment process is integrated with the overall Plan preparation.
- 4.6 Table 1 demonstrates the commitment to delivering the Strategic Development Plan within the Scottish Governments anticipated timescales. This is important to ensure that related projects, e.g. Local Development Plans and Local Housing Strategies are not delayed as a direct consequence. The need for key decisions to be ratified by the 4 Councils does lengthen the process, and the Project Plan sets out a period for 4 weeks following the Joint Committee's decisions at these stages for the 4 Councils to consider ratification of that decision.

Table 1: Strategic Development Plan Timings

Key Stages	Circular 1/2009 Typical Timings	TAYplan Project Plan Timings
Publish Main Issues Report & monitoring Statement and consult. Consider & report on representations. Prepare Proposed Plan. Joint Committee approval.	42 weeks	31/05/10 - 14/02/11 49 weeks
Publish Proposed Plan & Action Plan. Period for representations. Consider & report on representations. Joint Committee approval for submission.	30-36 weeks (note: proposed 6 week minimum, 12 week typical period for representations)	29/04/11 - 07/11/11 38 weeks (inc. decision ratified + printing) (note: proposed 8 week period for representations)
Submit Proposed Plan, Action Programme & related documents. Examination and report thereof. Ministers consider Examination report.	52 weeks	23/01/12 – 14/01/13 52 weeks
Minister's decision. Plan & Action Programme published.	17 weeks	17/01/13 - 08/04/13 17 weeks
Total	147 weeks	156 weeks

- 4.7 The TAYplan core team has, in effect, been fully staffed and operational since mid June 2009. The 4 Constituent Councils are supplementing the core team resource with the equivalent of 1 full time person, which is being delivered in different ways. All staff resources are now focused on the research and information required to inform the Main Issues Report stage, as well as commencing thinking in respect of the vision and outcomes, the format and scope of the Main Issues Report, and the ongoing engagement with key stakeholders and adjoining authorities, as required by the relevant legislation.

5 CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 The Treasurer and Clerk to TAYplan, the Director of Infrastructure Services, Angus Council, The Director of City Development, Dundee City Council, The Head of Development Services, Fife Council and the Executive Director (Environment), Perth & Kinross Council have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Report 10-2009: Project Plan Update, SDPA Joint Committee 26th May 2009.
- 6.2 Report 04-2009: The Development Plan Scheme, Joint Committee 24 February 2009.
- 6.3 Report 05-2008: Update on the Setting Up of the SDPA. Joint Committee 25 November 2008.
- 6.4 Report 02-2008: The Project Plan and Organisational Structure for the Strategic Development Planning Authority, SDPA Interim Joint Committee 19 August 2008.
- 6.5 The Scottish Government Circular 1/2009 'Development Planning'.

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14th August 2009