

**DUNDEE, PERTH, ANGUS AND NORTH FIFE
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING**

DATE: 24 FEBRUARY 2009

REPORT ON: MODIFICATIONS TO FINALISED FIFE STRUCTURE PLAN

**REPORT BY: KEITH WINTER, HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES,
FIFE COUNCIL**

REPORT NO: 06-2009

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update on the position of the Finalised Fife Structure Plan for which the Scottish Government has recently released Modifications for consultation.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee:

a) Note the contents of this report on the modifications to the Finalised Fife Structure Plan.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Structure Plan was approved by Fife Council in April 2006 and submitted to Scottish Ministers in June of that year. In 2007 Fife Council carried out a re-appraisal of the Structure Plan to update the housing component of the Plan. This included a period of consultation during August and October and culminated in Fife Council producing a report titled 'Proposed Modifications to Finalised Fife Structure Plan (2006) Arising from Re-Appraisal of Housing Land Requirement' in December 2007, setting out Fife Council's recommendations for alterations to the Plan submitted in 2006.

3.2 The statutory requirements relating to structure plans include scope for Scottish Ministers making modifications to structure plans which may materially affect their content. Preparation by Scottish Government of the Modifications has taken place, following analysis of public consultation responses to the Fife Structure Plan and Housing Land Re-Appraisal.

3.3 The Proposed Modifications published by the Scottish Government mark the final stage of consultation on the Finalised Fife Structure Plan 2006-26 (9-12-08). The content of the modifications, as interpreted by Fife Council, are listed at Appendix 1. The consultation period began on 9th December 2008 and has extended over the Christmas period. The consultation period was initially to run for 8 weeks until 2nd February 2009, however this has now been extended to 11th February following problems with email submissions.

3.4 A report was submitted for consideration at Fife Council's Planning Committee on the 27th of January 2009 which outlined the key issues and responses to the

modifications. The committee approved the report for submission to Scottish Ministers.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 The Director of Infrastructure Services, Angus Council, The Director of Planning and Transportation, Dundee City Council, The Head of Development Services, Fife Council and The Executive Director (The Environment Service), Perth & Kinross Council have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

5 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 5.1 No background papers

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10 February 2009

APPENDIX 1 CONTENT OF MODIFICATIONS

Content of Modifications as interpreted by Fife Council

Key components of the Proposed Modifications are:

- Recent population growth (GRO) figures identify an expected 11% increase in population. The Scottish Government propose an 8% population growth.
- The Scottish Government expects to establish a strategic requirement for 18,150 new housing units over the plan period to 2026, to ensure that the Structure Plan reflects National level requirements including the need to meet GROS household projections, housing needs and demands (SPP3) and Ministers' priorities arising from the Housing Supply Task Force.
- The increase in housing numbers is proposed to be distributed between the Strategic Land Allocations with increases indicated at Fife's four Housing Market areas. As part of the Local Plan processes the Council will have to consider how this increase is allocated between Strategic Land Allocations within each HMA.
- The future Local Plan allocation figures have been reduced from that proposed in the Housing Land Re-appraisal from 4,105 to 3,750.
- The Wind Turbine policy in the plan has been altered to reflect recent guidance set out in SPP6.
- Changes to renewable energy policies include supporting proposals for making use of clean coal technology, biomass and landfill gas and reviewing policy on wind energy to accord with SPP6.
- Green belt policies have been updated to ensure the plan accords with SPP21. Nature conservation policies have been updated to ensure they meet Scottish Planning Policy and European policy in respect of habitats and birds.
- Minerals policies have been altered with the removal of the policy for minerals trust funds. The existing aggregates levy and contributions to the Community Environmental Renewal Scheme will however continue to ensure positive environmental effects.
- Transport policies have been amended to support the "Forth Replacement Crossing" and Rosyth International Freight Container Terminal and schemes arising from the Government's Strategic Transport Projects Review.
- Town centres and retailing policies have had minor changes to reflect National guidance set out in SPP8.
- Waste management policies focus on the need to reduce and manage waste more effectively in the context of climate change.
- Adjustments of the relationship of the Plan to National Planning Framework 2.

The Proposed Modifications have been published for public consultation alongside an SEA document.