

## **ABERDEEN CITY & SHIRE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY**

### **Title : Strategic Development Plan Area – Proposed Submission**

#### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Authority of the results of the consultation on a Strategic Development Plan area and propose a submission to Scottish Ministers for approval.

#### **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 enabled the designation of Strategic Development Planning Authorities (SDPAs) by Scottish Ministers on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008.
- 2.2 The Scottish Government's intention, in line with the Planning White Paper of 2005 is that, while local development plans would cover the whole of Scotland, strategic development plans would only cover the four largest city regions – around Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow.
- 2.3 The Designation Orders identified those planning authorities which were jointly to form a SDPA (Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council in this case).
- 2.4 Within three months of the Designation Orders coming into force (ie by 25 September 2008), the SDPA must submit the following to the Scottish Ministers:
- a plan showing the proposed boundary of the SDP area;
  - a statement in justification of that proposal; and
  - a request that Scottish Ministers determine the boundary of the SDP area
- 2.5 The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 in s5(1) requires the SDPA to propose a boundary, although individual Councils are able to submit alternative proposals.

#### **3 Draft SDP Area Boundary Consultation**

- 3.1 Scottish Government Planning Circular 2/2008 stressed the importance of engagement with relevant interests in the determination of a proposed boundary. As a consequence, the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Planning Committee agreed a Consultation Draft document (Appendix 1) and that consultation would take the form of an advert (Appendix 2) in local newspapers, formally requesting responses from a range of key interests and a news item on the SDPA website. The six week consultation period formally began on 18 July 2008 and ended on 29 August 2008.

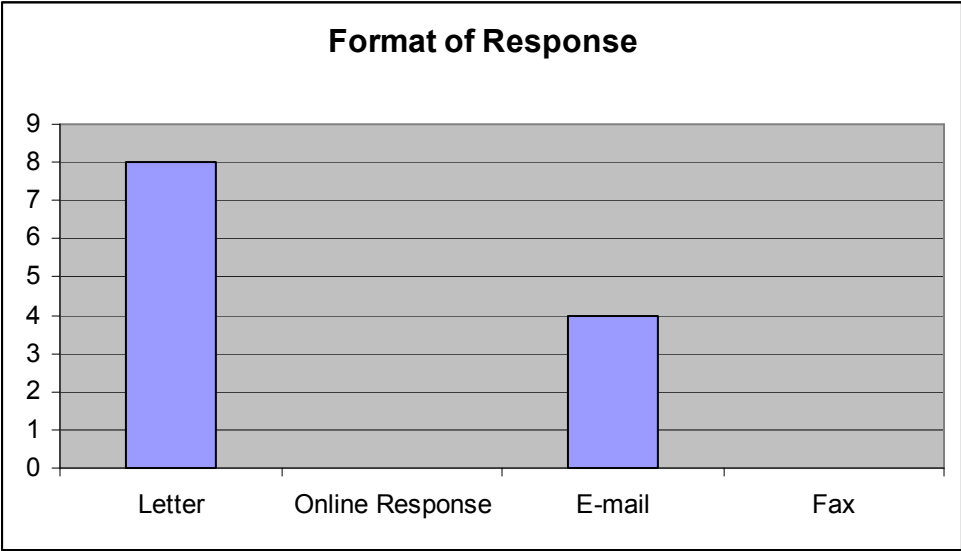
- 3.2 Formal responses were requested from a limited number of organisations:
- Both Councils (Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council);
  - Neighbouring Planning Authorities (Angus Council, Perth and Kinross Council, The Highland Council, The Moray Council, the Cairngorms National Park Authority and the other three SDPAs;
  - Community Councils in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire;
  - 'Key' and other Agencies (Scottish Water, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, Transport Scotland, Historic Scotland, Health and Safety Executive, Architecture and Design Scotland and Nestrans); and
  - Members of the Key Stakeholder Reference Group (such as Homes for Scotland, Scottish Rural Property and Business Association, ACSEF and Scottish Enterprise).

3.3 In addition to the aforementioned methods of consultation, an 'Update' was circulated on 22 July 2008 to 42 interested individuals and bodies who had registered on the SDPA website.

**4 Responses**

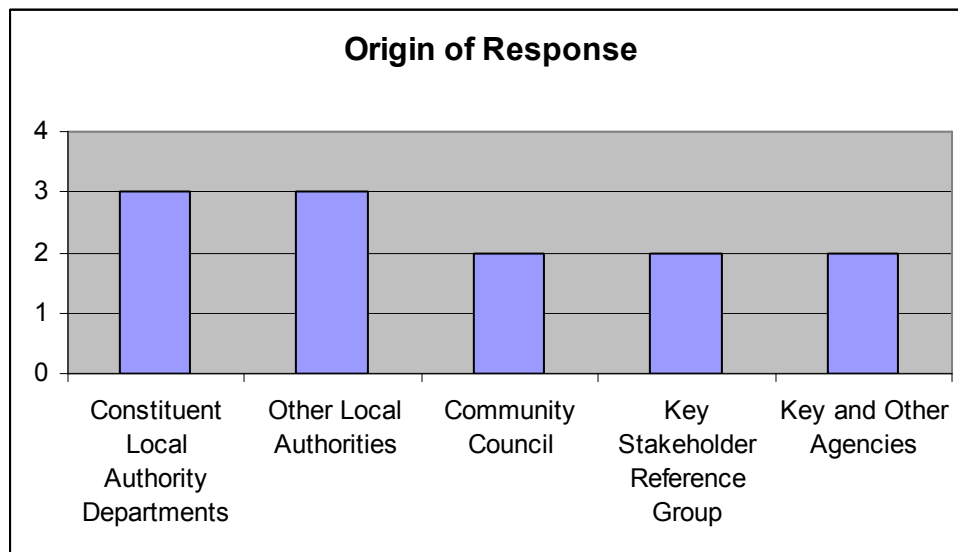
- 4.1 A total of 12 responses were received within the six week consultation period.
- 4.2 Figure 1 identifies how these responses were received. It shows that 75% were sent by post and 25% by email. No responses were received via the online response form or fax.

Figure 1: Method used to submit consultation responses



4.3 Figure 2 shows the origin of responses received. It can be seen that 25% of respondees were from constituent Local Authority (Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire councils) departments, 25% were from other Local Authorities and the remaining 50% were received from Community Councils, members of the Key Stakeholder Reference Group and Key/Other Agencies.

Figure 2: Origin of consultation responses



- 4.4 There were no objections to the proposed SDP boundary although concerns were raised by two respondees:
- Ballater and Crathie Community Council raised concern that towns in the Cairngorms National Park Area will be excluded from possible developments initiated by the Strategic Development Plan.
  - Scottish Enterprise supports the principle of forming the Aberdeen City and Shire SDPA however concern was raised with regards to the exclusion of the Cairngorms National Park. However, they would be content with proposals set out in the boundary consultation document if appropriate infrastructure is provided via the SDP to stimulate economic development in the CNP area which also mirrors proposals within the CNP Local Plan.
- 4.5 The Cairngorms National Park Authority responded positively to the boundary proposal as it is in line with the Parks wishes and Scottish Government guidance. It was requested that the Park be considered in the wider context within the Strategic Development Plan.
- 4.6 Both Aberdeen City (Policy & Strategy 10 June 2008) and Aberdeenshire Council (Infrastructure Services Committee – 21 August 2008) agreed the boundary and justification as proposed.
- 4.7 Of the three responses received internally from Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council, the boundary was supported in each case, although Aberdeen City Council’s Planning and Policy Services for Adults (Housing) sought assurances that the integrity of the City and Aberdeen Housing Market Area boundaries would be protected.
- 4.8 Overall, no significant concerns were raised and three responders acknowledged positively that the boundary proposal was in line with Scottish Government advice.

## 5 Proposal

- 5.1 As a result of the responses received and in adherence to guidance published by the Scottish Government it is proposed that no alteration is made to the draft SDP area boundary and that it be submitted to the Scottish Ministers for a determination.

## **6 Next Steps**

- 6.1 Following the agreement of the SDPA, a submission will be made to the Scottish Ministers before the deadline of 25 September 2008 showing the proposed SDP area with a justification and request that it is approved (Appendix 6).
- 6.2 Scottish Ministers have indicated that they will endeavour to issue a determination within one month of submission (i.e. by the end of October 2008). Scottish Ministers can approve the submitted area, modify the submitted area or create a new area at their discretion. Scottish Ministers are able to request further information from the SDPA and/or either Council before making a determination and must give a statement of their reasons if they determine a boundary which is different from the one proposed by the SDPA.
- 6.3 Once an area is approved by Scottish Ministers, this will be announced on the SDPA website and all those responding to the consultation will be notified. The area will then form the area for which future strategic development plans will be prepared.
- 6.4 In the meantime, the Team will continue to take forward the draft Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan to approval in 2009.

## **7 Recommendation**

- 7.1 It is recommended that the proposed SDP area boundary be agreed and sent to Scottish Ministers as outlined in this report for their determination and that a report be presented to a future meeting detailing the determination made by the Scottish Ministers.

David Jennings  
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Item : 1

Date : 18 September 2008

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