

Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Planning Committee: 9 June 2008

Revised Development Plan Scheme

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To advise Members of progress in updating the development plan scheme first published in February 2007 and seek agreement to publish it following minor changes required to secure a 'Crystal Mark'.

2 Background

- 2.1 The development plan scheme consists of two main parts, a project plan, and a participation statement. Since it was first published in February 2007, structure plan update reports to this committee have been presented using the scheme to monitor progress.
- 2.2 Members were advised in January 2008 that a revised development plan scheme would be put before a future meeting of this committee. This was due to the need to update the project timetable and the fact that development plan schemes are likely to be required to be re-published annually when they become a statutory requirement in 2009.
- 2.3 The first development plan scheme was reviewed by the Plain English Campaign and received a 'Crystal Mark'. It is intended that updates to the publication should enable that to be maintained given their important role in informing the public of what we are doing and the process we are following.

3 Revised development plan scheme content

- 3.1 The first development plan scheme (DPS) prepared by the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Planning Committee was published in February 2007.
- 3.2 This timing was chosen to coincide with the start of formal work on the new structure plan. Although not a statutory requirement until the new development plan regulations come into force in early 2009, production of an up-to-date DPS underlines our commitment to the changes taking place towards the modernisation of planning in Scotland.
- 3.3 Once published, the DPS will support the publication of the draft structure plan and the start of the public consultation period. It will set out where we are in the plan preparation process and the stages remaining until the plan is approved by Scottish Ministers.
- 3.4 The existing DPS provided the basis for the review. It has not been necessary to undertake a complete rewrite but this will be required next year. Whilst minor changes in tense and emphasis appear throughout the document, the main changes have involved:
 - the inclusion of a review of the past year (up to May 2008);
 - updating the risks associated with the programme; and

- updating of the overview of the process, including consultations done and the arrangements likely to be put in place once the plan is submitted to Scottish Ministers (requiring an 'examination' of the plan rather than a proposed modifications stage).

3.5 It has not been possible to agree the final form of this document with the Plain English Campaign to date, although no problems with this are envisaged. However, in light of the fact that minor changes may be required, delegated powers to agree and publish the scheme are required.

4 Recommendation

4.1 It is recommended:

- (a) that the Committee agree the revised development plan scheme attached at Appendix 1 (subject to any changes required to secure a Crystal Mark; and agree that any such changes be delegated to officers in consultation with the joint chairs); and
- (b) that the revised DPS be published, including electronically, and sent to the Scottish Government for information.

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