

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

**Date : 4 December 2009**

**Title : Consultation Responses**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Strategic Development Planning Authority's (SDPA) response to two recent Scottish Government consultations:

- Scotland's Zero Waste Plan: Consultation
- Scottish Planning Policy - Proposed Policy Changes Consultation

Any additional comments raised by the SDPA can be reported to the Scottish Government.

**2 Background**

2.1 At its meeting of 18 September 2009, the SDPA considered a report which identified two Scottish Government consultations closing before the date of its next meeting. The SDPA agreed to delegate responses to officers in consultation with the chair and vice-chair given the response deadlines.

**3 Scotland's Zero Waste Plan: Consultation**

3.1 On 20 August 2009 the Scottish Government published 'Scotland's Zero Waste Plan: Consultation', with the deadline for comments set for 13 November 2009. This consultation gives the SDPA the opportunity to comment on the plan and raise any issues or concerns with the Scottish Government.

3.2 The key messages in the consultative draft Zero Waste Plan are well aligned with the material on waste within the structure plan. Both documents emphasise the urgency and magnitude of the change required to achieve a suitable waste solution and highlight the need to manage waste with respect to the waste hierarchy and proximity principle. The structure plan highlights the need to manage waste as a 'resource' while the Zero Waste Plan further emphasises the environmental and economic opportunity that waste offers. The document states that planning is perfectly positioned to seize this opportunity and realise the potential waste management offers. The Zero Waste Plan considers a holistic approach to waste and a need to

consider the mix of different streams of waste produced, in order to design a comprehensive approach to waste management.

- 3.3 At over 300 pages, the consultation document covers a wide range of issues which extend well beyond the remit of the planning system. Due to its length, the document has not been appended to this report but can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/08/19141153/0>.
- 3.4 The Zero Waste Plan details two contributions that the planning system can make to facilitate the zero waste aims; firstly through provision of infrastructure such as recycling and treatment facilities as prioritised by the National Planning Framework 2. It is seen as important that development plans prepare for all waste streams, including industrial, commercial, construction, as well as municipal waste. Secondly, the planning system must work to ensure that at the earliest stages of new developments waste is considered and the development designed for the minimisation, recycling and management of waste. These key messages accord with the structure plan, however, the breadth of waste streams considered is not emphasised to the same extent within the structure plan. The structure plan recognises that the Scottish Government's waste policy is currently under review (the current consultations) and that the new framework will need to be reflected in the first strategic development plan.
- 3.5 The structure plan sets a target to reduce bio-degradable waste landfilled to 54,000 tonnes by 2020, reflecting the EC Landfill Directive targets to reduce waste to 35% of 1995 values. However, the Zero Waste Plan contains targets which are more challenging and have a wider scope.
- 3.6 The consultation notes that implementing the Zero Waste Plan will move Scotland towards achieving the following:
- 70% recycling of municipal waste by 2025.
  - No more than 25% of municipal waste going to energy from waste facilities.
  - No more than 5% of waste being landfilled by 2025.
  - Savings of around 1.5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in relation to municipal waste alone. [Scotland's total CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions in 2006 were 59 million tonnes.]
  - No growth in the amount of municipal waste produced.
  - Detailed and accurate data being available for all wastes regardless of source, including construction and demolition and commercial and industrial.
  - An effective and responsive land-use planning system for waste management.
  - All businesses being aware of and taking part in work to improve their resource efficiency and to prevent waste.
  - The public sector supporting waste prevention, re-use and recycling through green procurement.

3.7 Appendix 1 to this report is the response submitted to the Scottish Government to specific consultation questions. Both councils have responded to this consultation and the SDPA response was prepared in that context and concentrates on strategic planning issues.

#### **4 Scottish Planning Policy - Proposed Policy Changes Consultation**

4.1 The Scottish Government published a draft SPP (Part III) on 1 April 2009 with responses due by the 24 June 2009. This represented a consolidation of the current SPP series into a single document.

4.2 Due to a number of significant changes being proposed to that consultation draft, many of which emanating from the passage of legislation by the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Government decided to conduct a limited additional consultation.

4.3 30 September 2009 saw the publication of this current consultation on proposed changes to the draft SPP (Appendix 2). These do not cover all the proposed changes but only those of most significance.

4.4 Appendix 3 contains the response sent to the Scottish Government on 12 November. The response does not cover three of the six sections for the reasons set below:-

- Flooding: the relatively minor policy adjustments do not raise any particular strategic planning issues.
- Onshore oil and gas operations: this primarily relates to coal bed methane in the central belt and does not impact on Aberdeen City and Shire.
- High amenity business locations: national planning policy previously safeguarded nine large single user high amenity business sites. However, none of these were located in Aberdeen City and Shire so the change in policy does not directly impact on this area.

4.5 Climate Change and Sustainable Development: The original draft SPP of April 2009 contained limited references to sustainable development and climate change. However, in response to consultation submissions and the passing of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 the current draft gives these two subjects more comprehensive treatment. This is a welcome change and the response outlined in Appendix 2 just highlights a few additional points of detail.

4.6 Coastal Planning: The consultation document proposes explicit mention of the Marine (Scotland) Bill currently before the Scottish Parliament and its introduction of marine spatial planning. The relationship between terrestrial and marine planning will be an important one and the response welcomes this link being made,

suggesting that there should be a two-way relationship to ensure complementary plans.

## **5 Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **6 Recommendation**

6.1 It is recommended that the SDPA:

- (a) note the delegated responses to both Scotland's Zero Waste Plan: Consultation and the Scottish Planning Policy - Proposed Policy Changes Consultation; and
- (b) make any additional comments to be forwarded to the Scottish Government.

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