

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

Date: 4 December 2009

Title: Proposed Action Programme

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress with the structure plan action programme and present an updated version for approval.

2. Background

2.1 Under the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, action programmes are identified as a key component of the development planning process. Circular 1/2009 requires a version of the action programme to be published at key stages of the plan preparation process and an adopted version to be published within three months of the adoption or approval of the relevant strategic or local development plan.

2.2 The plan recently approved by the Scottish Government is a structure plan prepared under the 1997 Act and does not therefore have a statutory requirement for an associated action programme. However, throughout the plan preparation process there was a commitment to the production of an action programme to deliver the structure plan and to reflect the spirit of the new Act.

2.3 The decision letter from the Scottish Government, dated 14 August 2009, makes reference to the fact that Ministers acknowledge that an action programme is being prepared and encourages close work with public, private and community bodies to ensure targets are delivered.

2.4 It is in this context that a draft framework for the action programme was presented to the SDPA on 18 September, with a commitment to bring back a revised version to this meeting.

3 Action Programme

3.1 A statutory action programme must set out:

- A list of actions required to deliver each of the plan's policies and proposals;
- The name of the person who is to carry out the action; and
- The timescale for carrying out each action.

Although non-statutory, the action programme for the structure plan will include details on each of these points.

- 3.2 As the new development planning secondary legislation only came into effect in February 2009 there are no examples at this time of an action programme for a strategic or local development plan. The most relevant example available is the action programme published for the National Planning Framework 2 and some lead can be taken from this publication (an extract is presented in Appendix 1).
- 3.3 In establishing the precise actions the structure plan promotes, the approach taken has been to highlight every 'target' explicitly mentioned in the plan and build on these with the sections entitled 'how to meet the targets'. In addition, the plan identifies a number of proposals of strategic significance and two actions, which are neither a target or proposal, but require specific actions. In total there are 60 actions split as shown below.

Spatial strategy	3
Economic growth	7
Sustainable development and climate change	8
Population growth	4
Quality of the environment	4
Sustainable mixed communities	7
Accessibility	6
Proposals	19
Other	2
	60

- 3.4 Appendix 2 provides the primary level of information; the what, who and when required by the Scottish Government to give a snapshot of how the structure plan will be delivered. This is supplemented by additional operational material to help monitor and facilitate delivery.
- 3.5 It is clear that implementation of the structure plan is not solely the role of the SDPA or the councils. Delivering on all 60 actions will require partnership working with numerous organisations in the public and private sector. The role of the SDP team is shown for each action, with lead and partner roles also identified.
- 3.6 However, it does need to be emphasised that the two local development plans (LDPs) in particular are key to the implementation of the structure plan and are recognised as such in the action programme. The two LDPs will themselves have action programmes which will provide a greater level of detail, in line with the nature of the plans themselves.
- 3.7 It has been more fully appreciated since the last meeting of the SDPA that the action programme must be a living and evolving document if it is to achieve its purposes. One consequence of this is that, although put forward for approval today, it is by no means the last word on the implementation of the structure plan. While many actions are well defined, others are still evolving in discussion with stakeholders. This is important when considering the action programme presented in Appendix 2.
- 3.6 Discussions and meetings have taken place with a range of organisations such as Scottish Water, SEPA, Homes for Scotland, Grampian House Builders

Committee, Transport Scotland and waste, retail and telecommunications stakeholders. These have informed the action programme and are ongoing.

4 Proposal

- 4.1 It is proposed that the SDPA approve the action programme set out in Appendix 2 and that it be published on the SDPA website. As an evolving document (as noted above), it is not proposed to publish it in hard copy.
- 4.2 It is further proposed that reports be presented to the SDPA at least twice a year which monitor progress with the implementation of the action programme and propose updates as required. This would be done in parallel with monitoring of the actions identified for the SDPA in the Scottish Government's action programme for National Planning Framework 2.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that the SDPA:
- a) note the content of this report, consider the actions proposed in Appendix 2 and approve the action programme; and
 - b) receive reports at least twice a year which both monitor progress with implementation and update it as required.

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