
RATIFICATION OF SESPLAN MAIN ISSUES REPORT

Report by Service Director Regulatory Services

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

25 June 2015

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 To agree the ratification of the SESplan Main Issues Report and associated documentation.

1.2 The SESplan Main Issues Report 2 (MIR2) is the consultative document prior to the preparation of the SESplan Proposed Plan. It sets out preferred and alternative approaches for public comment in relation to matters including the SESplan Vision and Strategy, business, communities, connectivity and delivery.

1.3 The SESplan MIR2 was approved by the SESplan Committee on 29 May 2015, and is now being presented to each of the six councils that make up the SESplan authority for their ratification.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Council:

- a) Ratifies the decision of the SESplan Joint Committee at its meeting on the 29 May 2015 to approve Main Issues Report 2 and the supporting Monitoring Statement, Interim Environmental Report and Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment for public consultation.**
- b) Notes the proposals for engagement and consultation on Main Issues Report 2 and the supporting documents considered by the SESplan Joint Committee on the 29 May 2015.**
- c) Agrees that minor editorial changes of a non-policy nature to Main Issues Report 2 and the supporting documents are delegated to the SDP Manager in consultation with the Head of Planning, SESplan Project Board Chair and Joint Committee Convener.**
- d) Notes the accompanying background documents on spatial strategy, economy, minerals, waste, housing land and green networks.**

3 REPORT

- 3.1 The report to the SESplan Committee on 29 May 2015 approved the SESplan MIR2 for public consultation, along with supporting documents in relation to the monitoring statement, the interim environmental report, and the equalities and human rights impact assessment. The documents are referred to within this report are as follows-

Appendix 1: Report to SESplan Committee of 29 May 2015

Appendix 2: SESplan MIR 2

Appendix 3: Monitoring Statement

Appendix 4: Interim Environmental Report

Appendix 5: Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment

Appendix 6: Background Technical documents

- 3.2 **Appendices 1 and 2** are attached to this report. **Appendices 3-6** are available to view within the Members' library.

- 3.3 The SESplan MIR and associated documents have been produced under the scrutiny of the SESplan Committee, which has as council representatives Councillors Smith and Bell. In addition there has been officer input at the SESplan Board level and through various working groups.

- 3.4 SESplan was established through Government order, and comprises Scottish Borders Council, Fife Council, Midlothian Council, East Lothian Council, West Lothian Council, and City of Edinburgh Council. Its role is to prepare and keep up to date the region's Strategic Development Plan.

- 3.5 MIR2 sets preferred and alternative strategic approaches for public comment in relation to-

Vision - see Issue A on page 6 in MIR2

Strategy - see Issue B on page 8 in MIR2

A Place to do Business - see Issues C-E on pages 18-22 in MIR2

A Place for Communities - see Issues F-J on pages 25-35 in MIR2

A Better Connected Place - see Issues K-L on pages 39-42 in MIR2

Delivery - see Issues M-O on pages 44-46 in MIR2

- 3.6 The MIR2 is the preparatory document in relation to the next SESplan Proposed Plan, and this will supersede the SESplan SDP1 approved by Scottish Ministers in 2013.

- 3.7 In common with the previous SDP1, the key strategic issue relates to future provision of land for housing, and the discussion on this may be found in the Strategy and Communities sections of MIR2. Members should be aware that the housing numbers set out within the MIR2 are derived directly from the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HNDA) which has been agreed as being robust and credible by the Government's Centre for Housing Market Analysis (CHMA). However, in preparing the Proposed SDP2 these housing figures will require to be further assessed in line with what can realistically be delivered by both the private and publicly funded housing sectors. This is likely to result in a reduction in the overall SESplan housing supply target and housing land requirement for designation within Local Development Plans as a consequence, in particular, of the limited capacity of the publicly funded housing sector.

- 3.8 The MIR2 acknowledges the importance of this region to the Scottish economy and sets out an approach that seeks to provide an appropriate framework for the delivery of development. However, it also highlights the need for the delivery of appropriate infrastructure to meet predicted levels of future development.
- 3.9 The preferred options set out in the MIR2 are generally a continuation of the approach set out in SESplan1 in seeking to promote the sustainable economic development of Edinburgh and the South East of Scotland.
- 3.10 Section 4 of the SESplan Committee report in **Appendix 1** sets out the proposed approach to consultation on MIR2, and includes formal notice and advertisement, website, social media and various stakeholder and engagement activities. The general public, young people, community council, community partnerships, key agencies, housing and economic interests will be included in the process.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

The costs attached to the recommendations contained in this report are covered by the Council's annual contribution to the SESplan project.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

The SESplan MIR2 is required to be ratified by all six member authorities. If any member authority fails to ratify the MIR2 then it will require to be reconsidered by the SESplan Committee. This would entail delay to the finalisation and consultation on the MIR2, and to the SESplan SDP project.

4.3 Equalities

The Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment on the MIR2 is contained within **Appendix 5** to this report.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

Appendix 4 contains the draft Environmental Report on MIR2.

4.5 Carbon Management

There is no direct impact on the Council's carbon emissions arising from this report.

4.6 Rural Proofing

MIR2 is a consultation document on the Strategic Development Plan.

4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes required to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals in this report.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Service Director Regulatory Services **Signature**

Author(s)

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Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: None

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