

For Decision	✓
For Information	

ITEM 6 – MAIN ISSUES REPORT 2

Report by: Ian Angus, SDP Manager

Purpose

This Report seeks Committee approval of Main Issues Report 2 (MIR) and supporting documents for ratification by the member authorities and thereafter for public consultation.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the SESplan Joint Committee:

1. Approves Main Issue Report 2 and the supporting Monitoring Statement, Interim Environmental Report and Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment as set out in Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 for public consultation.
2. Notes that Member Authorities will be required to ratify the approval of Main Issues Report 2 and the supporting Monitoring Statement, Interim Environmental Report and Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment as set out in Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 for public consultation at Recommendation 1 of this Report.
3. Notes the proposals for engagement and consultation on Main Issues Report 2 and the supporting documents.
4. 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 Project Board Chair and Joint Committee Convener.
5. Notes the accompanying Background Documents:
 - Background Document 1 - Spatial Strategy Technical Note;
 - Background Document 2 - Economy Technical Note;
 - Background Document 3 - Minerals Technical Note;
 - Background Document 4 - Waste Technical Note;
 - Background Document 5 - Housing Land Technical Note; and
 - Background Document 6 - Green Network Technical Note.

Resource Implications

As set out below.

Legal and Risk Implications

All risks are detailed in the SESplan Risk Register and reported to Joint Committee on an annual basis.

Policy and Impact Assessment

No separate impact assessment is required.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Strategic Development Plan Authority (SDPA) Designation Order of 2008 established the South East Scotland SDPA - SESplan. SESplan and the six Member Authorities (City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian) are required to prepare and keep up to date a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland region.
- 1.2 The SDP is intended to set out a vision statement as the SDPA's broad view on the future development of the area, along with a spatial strategy on future development and land use. The SDP is to take into account:
- National Planning Framework (NPF3) and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP);
 - the resources available for carrying out the policies and proposals in the plan;
 - any approved or proposed SDP for a neighbouring SDP area;
 - any adopted national marine plan or regional marine plan relating to areas adjoining the plan area;
 - any regional transport strategy, approved flood risk management plan or local housing strategy relating to the area;
 - the national waste management plan; and
 - issues arising out of the European directive on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances.
- 1.3 Scottish Ministers expect SDPs to be concise visionary documents that set clear parameters for subsequent Local Development Plans (LDPs) and inform decisions about strategic infrastructure investment. Vision statements within the SDP are to set a view on 20 years hence, and a context for the spatial strategy of the plan. The spatial strategy should provide clear direction for new development up to year 12 from plan approval, with a broad indication of the scale and direction of growth up to year 20.

- 1.4 The principal topics for SDPs are expected to be land for housing, business, shopping and waste management development, strategic infrastructure (including transport, water supply and waste water) and strategic greenspace networks (including green belts).
- 1.5 SDP1 was approved by Scottish Ministers in June 2013, with Supplementary Guidance on Housing Land adopted in November 2014. SDP2 is required to be submitted to Scottish Ministers within four years of the approval of SDP1 i.e. no later than June 2017. Development Plan Scheme 7 (DPS7) sets out SESplan's programme for preparing and reviewing the SDP (<http://www.sesplan.gov.uk/>).

2. Main Issues Report 2

- 2.1 With a view to facilitating and informing the preparation of SDP2, the SDPA is required to prepare an MIR. The MIR is expected to set out the general proposals for development in the SDP area and in particular proposals as to where development should and should not occur. MIR2 as set out in Appendix 1 considers:
- **The SESplan Vision** - Edinburgh and South East Scotland is the hub of the Scottish economy and home to 1.25 million of the country's 5.3 million people. NPF3 recognises that the region '*supports many of our most important economic assets*' and that it will be a focus for economic growth and regeneration. SDP2 will help meet the ambitions of NPF3 and deliver the goals of business and communities across SESplan.
 - **The SESplan Strategy** - The spatial strategy sets out to deliver the vision for SDP2. It must support the creation of outstanding and high quality places to do business, places for successful and thriving communities and a better connected place where constraints are addressed and barriers removed. The spatial strategy must also contribute to community planning outcomes. Three options for the spatial strategy are identified (Concentrated Growth, Distributed Growth and Growth Corridors). The preferred option of Growth Corridors is a balanced option which looks to bring development close to where need arises (see Figure 2.4). The main impact would be in Edinburgh and the areas closest to the city. This option allows for strategic scale development to be located away from the city but within a proximity that supports sustainable travel patterns. This would be supported in the wider region by small scale development where required.
 - **A Place to do Business** - Edinburgh and South East Scotland is at the heart of the Scottish economy and has strengths in all the key growth sectors identified by the Scottish Government. The challenge is to realise the potential that this brings, address inequalities in employment opportunities and support business growth in the city, towns and rural area.

Identifying strategic opportunities for investment, improving connectivity, delivering infrastructure and promoting sustainable places where communities enjoy a high quality environment will support the development of the city region as a growing low carbon economy. Issues C – E considers options for locations for growth and investment comprising significant business clusters and the visitor economy and the management of resources comprising energy generation, resource extraction and waste.

- **A Place for Communities** - Creating successful, thriving and sustainable places for communities is not just about providing homes. Communities should enjoy a high quality built and natural environment with good access to healthy town centres and well managed greenspace. A planned approach is required to ensure development is located close to strategic employment locations, avoids any impact on protected areas and makes the best use of existing infrastructure including public transport connections. Issues F – J considers options for housing land across SESplan and in Edinburgh, a generous supply of housing land and affordable housing provision, town centres and strategic green networks.
- **A Better Connected Place** - Improving connectivity, addressing network constraints and removing barriers will support a low carbon South East Scotland as a place to do business and a place for communities. While parts of the region enjoy good access to transport, infrastructure and digital networks, others are less well served and there are significant constraints and major issues to be addressed. In order to deliver the preferred spatial strategy and achieve the Vision, these networks need to be improved to increase connectivity. Issues K - L considers options for transport, infrastructure, regional walking and cycling networks and digital connectivity and utilities infrastructure.
- **Delivery** - Development either cumulatively or individually will impact on available infrastructure capacity. The approach to delivery and how sites are delivered on the ground is key to achieving the overall vision and spatial strategy of SDP2. Issues M – O considers options for infrastructure delivery, funding transport infrastructure and assessing the five year effective housing land supply.

2.2 The Monitoring Statement, Interim Environmental Report and Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment as set out in Appendices 2, 3 and 4 are statutory requirements as part of the production of SDP2, and have been produced alongside MIR2 to inform the process. The Interim Environmental Report will require to be submitted to the SEA Gateway for consideration following ratification.

3. Ratification

- 3.1 The Member Authorities are required to ratify the decision of the SESplan Joint Committee to approve MIR2 and the supporting Monitoring Statement, Interim Environmental Report and Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment as set out in Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 for public consultation.
- 3.2 Paragraph 12.2 of the approved SESplan Constitution sets out that all major decisions, for example about the content of the SDP but with the exception of submission of the Proposed Plan to Ministers when no modifications are proposed, will require to be ratified by each of the six constituent member authorities. The ratification process is anticipated to be completed by the end of June 2015. However if any of the six member authorities do not ratify the decision of the SESplan Joint Committee, MIR2 and all supporting documents will require to be brought back to SESplan Joint Committee for further consideration and the process of ratification restarted. An update on the ratification process will be brought to the meeting of the SESplan Joint Committee in June 2015.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Circular 6/2013 (Development Planning) sets out the following statutory requirements for engagement at the MIR stage of the SDP preparation:
- To publish a notice in one or more local newspapers circulating in the SDP area and on the internet setting out:
 - That the document has been prepared and where and when it can be viewed;
 - A brief description of the context and purpose of the document;
 - Details of how further information may be obtained; and
 - A statement of how representations may be made, to whom and by when they should be made.
 - Send this information to:
 - Key agencies;
 - Adjoining planning authorities / SDPAs; and
 - Community councils within the SDP area.
 - Make a copy available at the planning offices of each member authority plus publication on the internet;
 - Ensure that anyone that may be expected or want to comment on the MIR are made aware that they can do so, and are given the opportunity;
 - Send a copy of the report and Monitoring Statement to Scottish ministers; and
 - Ministers also expect authorities to employ a range of innovative methods to meaningfully engage with stakeholders and communities.

4.2 DPS7 contains the SESplan Participation Statement. This includes information on engagement as follows:

- SESplan will raise awareness of strategic development planning while engaging and involving key stakeholders throughout the plan making process;
- Develop awareness of SESplan through communication and promotion;
- Seek ways to engage with and involve key stakeholders throughout the whole process of producing the SDP;
- Make information available as early as possible;
- Produce information in an easy to use format;
- Ensure that arrangements for participation are as inclusive and open as possible; and
- Offer the opportunity to be involved to as many groups as possible.

4.3 SESplan will use a number of tools to reach as wide an audience as possible and within means which are practical and available to us. In particular we will:

- Make extensive use of electronic communication including our website, social media, consultation portal and those of our member authority partners, to promote plan awareness and encourage engagement;
- Build upon and develop existing partnerships and working relationships, for example with key agencies and regional economic groups, to facilitate greater input; and
- Develop individual strategies on how best to engage with key stakeholders; recognising the limitations of a one size fits all approach.

4.4 SESplan will aim to exceed the minimum requirements as set out in legislation. To facilitate this we will:

- Look to guidance, such as the National Standards for Community Engagement and other resources, when completing and assessing engagement plans and actions;
- Consult on engagement plans and monitor their implementation to ensure they are working for everyone involved;
- Ensure consultation material is written in clear, plain English with attractive graphics; and
- Communicate throughout the consultation process and provide updates as the plan progresses.

4.5 The formal MIR consultation phase will run for 8 weeks from 21 July 2015 to 15 September 2015. Representations on the MIR will be accepted during the formal consultation period.

4.6 Prior to the start of the formal consultation phase, the documents are available on the SESplan website as Appendices to this Report. However the decision of the SESplan Joint Committee to approve the MIR and supporting documents for consultation is required to be ratified by all SESplan Member Authorities. Responses cannot therefore be accepted until this process has been concluded and the formal consultation period commenced.

4.7 Stakeholder and engagement activities that will be undertaken throughout the formal consultation period are detailed in Table 1 below. Coordinated press releases, website and social media will also be utilised throughout the process.

Table 1 - Engagement Activities

Stakeholder	Engagement	Date
The Public	Social media, electronic communication, easy read leaflet, press releases, touring exhibition, drop in sessions	25 May – 15 September
Young people	University visit, secondary school visits, youth parliament	25 May – 15 September
Community councils	An event in each Member Authority area	21 July – 15 September
Community planning partnerships	Joint event between the six Member Authorities	21 July – 15 September
Key agencies	Notify to comment, involvement in preparation of the MIR	Ongoing
House Builders / Developers	A Place for Communities event, article / press release in industry magazines	25 May – 15 September
Economic forums	A Place to do Business event. South East Scotland Economic Community discussion, article / press release in industry magazines	25 May – 15 September
Local Planning Teams	Presentations and Q and A in each Local Authority	21 July – 15 September
Elected Members	Workshop in each Member Authority area	21 July – 15 September
Key Theme Events	A Place for Communities, A Place to do Business and A Better Connected Place events	21 July – 15 September

5. Next Steps

5.1 Subject to approval of MIR2 and all supporting documents, an update on the ratification process and consultation will be brought to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

Appendices

Appendix 1	Main Issues Report 2
Appendix 2	Monitoring Statement
Appendix 3	Interim Environmental Report
Appendix 4	Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment

Background Documents

Background Document 1 - Spatial Strategy Technical Note

Background Document 2 - Economy Technical Note

Background Document 3 - Minerals Technical Note

Background Document 4 - Waste Technical Note

Background Document 5 - Housing Land Technical Note

Background Document 6 - Green Network Technical Note

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