
SESPLAN: FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE RATIFICATION

Report by Service Director Regulatory Services

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

25 February 2016

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks ratification of SESplan budget proposals for 2016/17, and changes to the SESplan governance arrangements.**
- 1.2 The SESplan budget for 2016/17 is proposed to be set at £286,336, with each authority expected to contribute £46,550.
- 1.3 Revised SESplan governance arrangements are proposed, including the formalisation of the two year cycle for Convener and Vice-Convener to better relate to the Plan preparation cycle.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Council:-

- (a) Agrees to ratify the SESplan budget proposals for 2016/17.**
- (b) Agrees to ratify the revised SESplan Governance arrangements.**
- (c) Notes the potential for the Governance arrangements to be amended to deal with sequential and typographical errors as set out in paragraph 3.8.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 14 December 2015 the SESplan Joint Committee discussed and agreed the operating budget for 2016/17 (SESplan report attached as **Annex 1**), and amendments to the Constitution, Scheme of Delegation and Financial Rules (SESplan report attached as **Annex 2**). This report seeks agreement of the Council to the ratification of the decisions from those SESplan reports.

SESplan Budget Proposals 2016/17

- 3.2 The 2016/17 budget for SESplan has been set at £286,336 (see **Annex 1**). Total member contributions are set at £279,300, with £46,550 being the share for each authority. This level of funding is the same as that for 2015/16.
- 3.3 Funding from each authority has reduced from a previous level of £49,000 in 2013/14.
- 3.4 The SESplan budget for 2016/17 includes fixed costs (staffing, rent, administration) at £264,336. Variable costs (technical support, contingency) are set at £22,000.

SESplan Revised Governance Arrangements

- 3.5 The main changes relate to the formalisation of the two year rotation of the Convener and Vice-Convener to better relate to the plan production cycle, and to the removal of the need to ratify draft Supplementary Guidance (see **Annex 2**).
- 3.6 Ratification of all key stages of the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan (Main Issues Report and Proposed Plan) will still be required, as will the adoption of Supplementary Guidance.
- 3.7 In addition, the SESplan report also includes the adoption of standing orders in relation to the management and operation of the Joint Committee.
- 3.8 There are some potential amendments to the proposed wording that might be considered as follows-
- a) Scheme of delegation (para 2.3k): removal of the word 'statutory' would enable non-statutory Supplementary Guidance to be approved without ratification.
 - b) Constitution (para 10.3, final sentence): replace 'Joint Committee' with 'SESplan Board' as this will usually be an operational matter.
 - c) Standing Orders (para 5): should refer to 'six' constituent Councils.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

The Council will be required to fund its member contribution towards the continued operation of SESplan. Budget for £46,550 for 2016/17 (as set out in paragraph 4.2) will be required. This is in line with current Council budgeting.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

SESplan is the strategic development authority for Edinburgh and the South East of Scotland set up by the Scottish Government. The Council therefore has a duty to contribute to its effective operation.

4.3 Equalities

There are no direct adverse equality implications arising from this report.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no direct economic, social or environmental effects arising from this report.

4.5 Carbon Management

There are no effects on carbon emissions arising from this report.

4.6 Rural Proofing

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes required to the Council's Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation as a result of this report.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments incorporated into this report.

Approved by

Brian Frater

Service Director Regulatory Services

Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
M. Wanless	Planning Policy and Access Manager Ext 5063

Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: None

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Jacqueline Whitelaw can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at: Jacqueline Whitelaw, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells. Tel: 01835 825431