

ABERDEEN, 26 JUNE, 2020, MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY

Present: Councillors J Cox (Chair); D Aitchison, P Bell, M Boulton, J Cooke, R Grant, P Johnston, I Mollison, (as substitute for Councillor J Latham), B Topping, and I Yuill.

Apologies: Councillors G Graham, J Latham, and D Mair.

Officers: **Aberdeen City Council:** Ms G Beattie, Chief Officer, Strategic Place Planning; Ms E Robertson, Committee Assistant; Mr A Thomson, Solicitor, Governance; and Mr T Walsh, Senior Planner, (Local Plan Team); and
Aberdeenshire Council: Mr P Macari, (Head of Service, Planning and Environment); Ms M Stewart, Planning Service Manager; Mr C Smith, Business Partner; Mr K Oxtan, Accountant; and Ms J McRobbie (Committee Officer).

In attendance: Ms A MacDonald, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland.

1. SEDERUNT AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chair asked if there were any declarations of interest. No interests were declared. Apologies were noted from Councillors Graham, Latham, and Mair.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY OF 18 MARCH, 2020

There had been circulated and was **approved** as a correct record the Minute of Meeting of 18 March, 2020.

3. UNAUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2019/20

There had been circulated a report dated 18 June, 2020, by the Treasurer, requesting Members' consideration of the unaudited annual accounts 2019/20.

There was discussion as to the definitions of short-term debtors and creditors, and the Authority agreed to approve for their interest the unaudited annual accounts for 2019/20.

4. ABERDEEN CITY AND SHIRE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN

There had been circulated a report dated 18 June, 2020, providing Audit Scotland's Annual Audit Plan for 2019/20.

Having heard further from Ms MacDonald, Audit Scotland, of the work proposed, and the context of the Authority being classed as a small body, with the focus on financial sustainability and governance and transparency of decision-making, the Authority agreed to note the Annual Audit Plan, 2019/20.

5. UPDATE ON PROPOSED STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018

There had been circulated a joint report from the Chief Officer Strategic Place Planning, Aberdeen City Council and the Head of Planning and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council, providing an update on the current status of the proposed Strategic Development Plan 2018, as yet unapproved by the Scottish Ministers, and the implications for both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Proposed Local Development Plans, approved by the respective Councils on 2 and 5 March, 2020, of this.

Having heard further from officers, there was discussion as to whether the assumed impacts of COVID-19 would be added to the Strategic Development Plan, with the likely reduction in demand and explanation was given that the Strategic Development Plan could not be amended, having already been examined in public and now sitting with Scottish Ministers for approval or rejection.

The Authority agreed to note the updates provided.

6. DRAFT HOUSING LAND AUDIT

There had been circulated a joint report by Chief Officer Strategic Place Planning, Aberdeen City Council and the Head of Planning and Environment, Aberdeenshire Council, outlining the approach which had been adopted regarding the Housing Land Audit, in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Authority heard further from officers that, since the report had been issued, proposing that the usual stakeholder consultation, held in April/ May, could not be progressed, as early discussions had highlighted that the industry had a low capacity to engage, a recent communication had suggested that capacity was now in place.

There was discussion of the base date for the housing land audit, and agreement with the development industry to use the existing audit for consideration in terms of the current development plans.

The Authority Agreed:-

- (1) that the stakeholder consultation take place as requested;
- (2) that officers provide information on the firms represented by Homes for Scotland;
and
- (3) in all other respects to note the terms of the report.

7. FUTURE DATES

The Authority noted the remaining dates for future meetings as undernoted:
Wednesday, 23 September, 2020 – Aberdeen City Council; and
Friday, 11 December, 2020 – Aberdeenshire Council.

Councillor John Cox
Chair