

Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority

**To: Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority
Joint Committee**

On: 11th September 2017

**Report by
Stuart Tait, Manager**

SDP2 Approval

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Joint Committee on matters relating to the approval of the second Strategic Development Plan (SDP2).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee
- notes and welcomes the approval of SDP2 by Scottish Ministers;
 - notes the requirements post approval in terms of the publication and advertisement of SDP2 and the SEA post adoption statement; and,
 - notes the timeline for the submission of the Action Programme and agrees that the SDP Manager seeks the agreement of the Joint Committee Convenor and Clydeplan Steering Group Chair prior to submission of the Action Programme.

3. SDP2

- 3.1 SDP2 was submitted to Scottish Ministers on 26th May 2016. A formal examination process commenced on 14th July 2016 which included a public hearing session on housing related matters which was held in Renfrew on 14th December 2016. The Reporters' Report of Examination was submitted to Scottish Ministers on 20th March 2017.
- 3.2 The SDP became older than 5 years on 29th May 2017 and on 24th July 2017 the Scottish Ministers approved SDP2 subject to a number of modifications.

4. Scottish Ministers Approval

- 4.1 In approving the SDP the Scottish Ministers have made a number of modifications to the SDP as submitted by Clydeplan most notably relating to housing, where an additional 5% has been added to the level of generosity, and forestry and woodland to reflect the Scottish Government's new ambitions for woodland planting.
- 4.2 In addition Scottish Ministers are seeking the preparation of three pieces of supplementary guidance relating to strategic heat infrastructure, aggregates and forestry and woodland, with the Forestry and Woodland Strategy supplementary guidance to be submitted to Scottish Ministers by 24th July 2018.

- 4.3 The Scottish Ministers have also included a modification in relation to the network of strategic centres seeking an early review of the network which will include consideration of the status of the centres within the network and an analysis of the potential impact on town centres of expanding Braehead. The early review reflects the existing commitment in the SDP Action Programme. The modification has low impact as this has already been considered as part of Policy 4 of the SDP and through the assessment of development proposals process.

5. Next Stages

- 5.1 In accordance with the necessary statutory requirements. Clydeplan are required “*as soon as practically possible*” to
- publish SDP2 (including electronically);
 - send two copies of the SDP2 to Scottish Ministers;
 - place copies of the SDP2 in local libraries;
 - advertise in a local newspaper (The Herald); and,
 - notify those people who made representations to SDP2 that it has been published and where it is available for inspection.
- 5.2 In addition, also as soon as reasonably practicable after the approval of SDP2 , a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) post adoption statement should be published with copies placed in the Clydeplan office and an advert placed in a local newspaper (The Herald). Also Clydeplan are to inform the SEA consultation authorities of the adoption of the SDP and send them a copy along with a copy of the post adoption statement.
- 5.3 It would be the intention to publish and advertise the post adoption statement and the Plan together on Friday 15th September 2017.

6. Action Programme

- 6.1 The Action Programme accompanying SDP2 requires to be adopted within three months of SDP2 being approved (24th October 2017) and thereafter to be kept under review and updated and republished at least every two years. Whenever an Action Programme is published two copies are to be sent to Scottish Ministers, published electronically and copies placed in local libraries. Given that this deadline falls between Joint Committee meetings, it is proposed that the SDP Manager seeks the agreement of the Joint Committee Convenor and Clydeplan Steering Group Chair prior to submission of the Action Programme.
- 6.2 Under the current regulations the third SDP will require to be submitted no later than four years from the date of approval of SDP2 which would be 24th July 2021.

- 6.3 Until such times as the new Planning Bill comes into effect and acknowledging the direction set out in the Scottish Government's Position Statement (June 2017), the intention is to progress with a work programme to support the preparation of the third SDP, recognising the opportunity to support and align this with the emerging work streams of the Glasgow City Region and its Economic Strategy and related Action Plan.
- 6.4 Clydeplan's response to the Scottish Government's Position Statement is set out in the Appendix. Given the deadline for the response the submission was agreed by the Convenor and Chair of the Steering Group.

Appendix

Clydeplan Response to the Scottish Government's Position Statement - submitted 10th August 2017

Firstly, Clydeplan reiterates the comments it in submission, dated 29th March 2017, on the proposals to change the planning system in Scotland.

Clydeplan remains extremely disappointed that a clear rationale for removing Strategic Development Plans, and Strategic Development Planning Authorities, from the planning system has still not been properly set out. Consequently, it remains unclear that the system as currently proposed will address the perceived potential weaknesses of the current system as expressed by the independent panel particularly in relation to the Scottish Government's approach to housing.

Taking account of the terms of the consultation on the Scottish Government's Position Statement, there are a number of matters Clydeplan would wish to highlight before the new Planning Bill is published in December 2017.

1. Recognise Glasgow City regions role in Scotland's economy

Glasgow city region is Scotland's only metropolitan city region accounts for more than a third of Scotland's GVA and population and as such the role of strategic planning is considered vitally important to ensure it maximises its economic, environmental and social potential not only for the city region but also for the wider benefit of Scotland. It also has a long standing history in strategic planning going back over 70 years. Consequently it is considered that the approach to Glasgow city region and the importance of regional planning in this area should be supported and reflected in the Planning Bill and its associated supporting documentation to ensure continued momentum.

2. Clearly define duties powers and outputs for regional partnerships

From Clydeplan's experience, collaborative regional partnerships require clarity around their purpose, roles and responsibilities, governance, accountability and funding. Therefore, it is considered necessary to set out in statute clearly defined duties, powers and outputs for regional partnerships. Whilst in some areas including the Glasgow city region where the commitment to voluntary joint working is ongoing and well established e.g. Glasgow City Region Cabinet, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership, Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership, Climate Ready Clyde there is potentially a risk that a reliance upon voluntary regional partnership working will not secure the commitment and outputs required to support the aspirations of the new Scottish planning system. For maximum effectiveness national agencies should be statutorily required to contribute to regional partnership working.

3. Clearly specify the role of regional partnership activity within the planning system

Unless the role and remit of regional partnerships is clearly defined in respect of the development planning system (particularly in respect of the housing numbers) and development management, then the objective of reducing “overlap and complexity in the system of development plans may not be achieved.

The Positions Statement says that “Although they [regional spatial strategies] would not form a statutory development plan, they could contribute to the evidence base for the National Planning Framework”, and it is not clear in practice how that distinction will work and therefore clarity is required.

4. Clarify matters relating to how regional partnerships will function

To ensure effective implementation of regional partnerships in the new planning system, clarity is required on the following matters:

- the Position Statement notes that there will be joint working processes between the regional partnerships and Scottish Government which will provide an evidence base for regional priorities in the National Planning Framework - detail is required on how this relationship will work;
- detail is required on the geographical coverage of regional partnerships - to be effective these should be designated fixed boundaries. In the Glasgow city region context partnership working arrangements will continue to be based on the geography of its the eight local authorities;
- there should be commitment that the Scottish Government and their agencies will align their policies, budgets and programmes to support the delivery of regional priorities set out in the National Planning Framework;
- detail is required on financial support for the new regional partnerships;
- transitional arrangements should be clearly set out for existing strategic development planning areas in respect of:
 - a. The transition from identifying regional priorities in a strategic development plan to identifying regional priorities in National Planning Framework;
 - b. Strategic development planning authorities have formal Joint Committee arrangements, in transitioning to regional partnerships the governance arrangements should be clearly set out.

5. Prioritise revision of Scottish Planning Policy and National Planning Framework

There is the need to prioritise the revision of both Scottish Planning Policy and National Planning Framework to support and shape the work programmes of the regional partnerships. This will include the development of regional spatial strategies and identifying regional priorities for National Planning Framework, including the scale of housing need and demand.

6. Preserve strategic planning expertise

Finally, the loss of expertise in strategic planning across Scotland has been raised as a growing concern during this consultation process. An early conclusion to the review process is considered essential to ensure there is no further erosion of this expertise which is it is considered will be valuable in supporting the new regional partnerships and the co-production required for any new National Planning Framework.

Clydeplan would wish to reiterate its ongoing commitment to joint working with the Scottish Government as the new planning system comes into effect and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with its planning officials.