

To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board

On: 29 August 2017

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: “Places, People and Planning”: The Scottish Government’s Position Statement on the future of the Scottish Planning System (June 2017)

1. Summary

- 1.1 A report was presented to the Planning and Property Policy Board on the 14 March 2017 providing a summary of the Scottish Government’s consultation on the future of the Scottish Planning System as well as an outline of the response from Renfrewshire Council to the consultation.
 - 1.2 The Director of Development & Housing Services provided a full response to the consultation on the 4th April 2017 and this can be accessed at:
https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/planning-architecture/a-consultation-on-the-future-of-planning/consultation/published_select_respondent
 - 1.3 Following the close of the consultation, an independent analysis of the views submitted was undertaken on behalf of the Scottish Government. On the 29 June 2017, the Scottish Government published a Position Statement on the future of the Scottish Planning System.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board
 - (i) Notes the publication of the Scottish Government’s Position Statement on the future of the Scottish Planning System and agrees that regular update reports be provided to future meetings of the Board where relevant.
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3. Background

- 3.1. In September 2015, Scottish Ministers appointed a panel to undertake an independent review of the Scottish Planning System. The panel reported in May 2016. The Scottish Government's response to the Review of Planning was issued in July 2016.
 - 3.2. On the 10 January 2017, a consultation document on the future of the Planning System in Scotland, 'Places, People and Planning' was issued by the Scottish Government with the closing date for submissions by the 4 April 2017.
 - 3.3. In line with the outline set out in a paper to the former Planning & Property Board of March 14th 2017, a response was submitted by the Director of Development & Housing to the Scottish Government which was then considered along with those submitted by a range of other stakeholders.
 - 3.4. Taking into account the wide range of views expressed in the consultation, the Scottish Government have now published a Position Statement which sets issues and actions they are considering.
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4. Scottish Government's Key Changes

4.1. Making Plans for the Future

- Introducing a statutory link between Development Plans and Community Planning;
- Removing the requirement to prepare Strategic Development Plans and introducing duties/powers to support wider 'regional partnership working';
- An enhanced status for both the National Planning Framework and Scottish Planning Policy;
- Development Plans to be prepared every 10 years instead of the current 5 years;
- The Main Issues Report will be removed from the plan preparation process and replaced with a draft plan;
- Supplementary Guidance will be removed, all policies and detailed considerations required to be in the one plan;
- Introduction of an early gatecheck into the plan preparation process. An early Examination of the Plan to resolve issues at the start of the process rather than waiting to the Examination at the end of the plan making process;

4.2. People Make the System Work

- Introduce a new role for communities to produce local place plans, which could form part of the statutory Local Development Plan;

- New requirements for local planning authorities to engage specifically with children and young people;
- The Development Plan Scheme having a stronger legislative status to secure stronger and more locally tailored engagement;
- Amendments to the requirements for pre-application consultation, requiring developers to provide feedback to communities following consultation and engagement;
- Removing the opportunity for applicants to submit a revised or repeat application at no cost if an application is refused, withdrawn or if an appeal is dismissed;

4.3. Building More Homes and Delivering Infrastructure

- Legislative change to refresh and rebrand Simplified Planning Zones allowing them to progress in a wider range of circumstances;
- There will not be the introduction of an infrastructure agency to improve links between planning and infrastructure, there is consideration of a national delivery group;
- Options for an infrastructure levy or charge are still being considered;

4.4. Stronger Leadership and Smarter Resourcing

- Continue to explore the scope for shared services;
- Additional enabling powers to provide scope to widen discretionary charging for the planning service and extend the range of services which fees can be charged;
- Improvements to Development Management procedures including broadening the scope for permitted development;
- Establishment of a Digital Task Force to support the future planning service;

4.5. Although the Position Statement sets out the key changes, no final decisions have been made on the content of the legislation.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. The Scottish Government's Position Statement asks for views on the proposals contained within the paper. In this respect it is considered that the comments previously submitted will continue to be taken into consideration and as such there is no requirement for any further comments as this would simply be to restate the views already expressed.
- 5.2. Some of the proposed changes may require changes to legislation and in this context the Scottish Government has committed to bring forward a Planning Bill early in this current Parliamentary session.
- 5.3. Further reports will be provided to the Board as the legislative changes and detailed proposals on the review of the planning system emerge.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – Given that this is a consultation paper, there is no certainty as to what the outcome of the consultation will be and what will be in the final Planning Bill.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
3. **Community Planning** – None
4. **Legal** - None
5. **Property/Assets** - None
6. **Information Technology** - None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** - None
9. **Procurement** - None
10. **Risk** - None
11. **Privacy Impact** – None
12. **Cosla Policy Position** - None

List of Background Papers

- (a) "Places, People and Planning" Scottish Government Position Statement (June 2017) on the future of the Scottish Planning System.
<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/planning-architecture/places-people-and-planning-position-statement/>

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