

**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE 24 APRIL 2000**

**REPORT ON: FIFE STRUCTURE PLAN CONSULTATIVE DRAFT**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**

**REPORT NO: 228/2000**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee that the Fife Structure Plan Consultative Draft has been issued; to outline aspects of strategic importance to the Dundee City Council area; and to seek authority for the Director of Planning and Transportation to submit comments to Fife Council on behalf of this authority.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a remits the Director of Planning and Transportation to submit comments to Fife Council generally welcoming the contents of the Structure Plan insofar as they are of strategic relevance to Dundee City Council;
  - b offers support, in principle, to the Structure Plan proposals to identify land for the development of a new rail station at Wormit and establishment of a park and ride facility at the Tay Bridgehead.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 No financial implications arise for Dundee City Council as a result of this report.

## **4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The strategy of the Fife Structure Plan Consultative Draft is consistent with many of the key themes contained in Dundee 21. In particular, the Structure Plan places restraint on inward migration and commuter led expansion of settlements in close proximity to Dundee.

## **5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None

## **6 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 Fife Council has issued the Fife Structure Plan Consultative Draft which, when approved will provide strategic guidance for development in Fife for the period 2001 to 2011. As a neighbouring planning authority, Dundee City Council has been invited to submit representations to Fife Council on the contents of the Draft Structure Plan.
- 6.2 Of particular interest to this Council is the locational strategy of the Structure Plan in relation to new housing development. In light of the proximity of Dundee to Fife, there is potential for housing development in Fife to impact significantly on the land

use strategies for the City to be advanced through the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan. It is, therefore, to be welcomed that the Fife Structure Plan explicitly places restraint on inward migration and commuter led expansion of settlements in east Fife, which includes the Tay Coast Local Plan area. Indeed, the Structure Plan identifies a need to allocate only a further 140 houses in the Tay Coast area to satisfy the requirements to 2011.

- 6.3 Transportation aspects of the Fife Structure Plan are also of interest to this Council in light of the cross boundary movement which occurs between Dundee and Fife. In this regard, the Draft Structure Plan contains two proposals of particular interest:

- a Proposal PT9: New Rail Station At Wormit: Land should be identified for this facility and be given protection against development that would prevent its long term implementation.
- b Proposal PT14: Tay Bridgehead Park and Ride Site: Land to accommodate such a facility should be identified and given protection from development which would prejudice its long term development.

- 6.4 These proposals support the objectives of the Draft Structure Plan of reducing the need to travel by private car, encouraging the use of alternative modes of transport and safeguarding land for potential improvements to the public transport network. As the transportation proposals are accompanied by a policy of restraint in terms of new housing development, fears that they may encourage further commuting between Fife and Dundee are unfounded. Indeed, implementation of the transport proposals, particularly the park and ride site at the Tay Bridgehead may well improve traffic movement across the Tay Road Bridge, particularly during peak periods.
- 6.5 These proposals are consistent with Dundee City Council's Interim Local Transport Strategy which supports more frequent and convenient local rail services and the investigation of park and ride facilities at the edge of the urban area as a means of encouraging greener travel patterns for people living outwith Dundee's boundaries.
- 6.6 On a more general note, the Fife Structure Plan Consultative Draft is considered to accord with the Tayside Structure Plan and the land use strategies for the City to be advanced in the emerging Dundee and Angus Structure Plan. As such, it is recommended that the Director of Planning and Transportation be remitted to write to Fife Council welcoming the contents of the Fife Structure Plan Consultative Draft insofar as they are of strategic relevance to the Dundee City Council area.
- 6.7 As well as its content, the Fife Structure Plan is of interest to this Council as a further example of the more concise strategic planning documents currently being encouraged by the Scottish Executive. The format of this Plan will therefore be considered alongside that of other Structure Plans recently produced by other Councils as a means of informing the approach to be adopted in the joint production, with Angus Council, of the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan.

## 7 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Support Services and the Director of Corporate Planning have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

**8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

## 8.1 Fife Structure Plan Consultative Draft

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22 March 2000

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