

**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE –
25 FEBRUARY 2002**

**REPORT ON: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE FINALISED DUNDEE AND
ANGUS STRUCTURE PLAN**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 90-2002

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to advise the Committee of the results of the second stage of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a Notes both the outcome of the second stage of the Sustainability Appraisal process and the Consultants' views on how the changes introduced in the course of finalising the Structure Plan have improved its sustainability.
 - b Remits the Director of Planning and Transportation to submit the first and second stage Sustainability Appraisal documents to the Scottish Ministers as supporting documents to assist their consideration of the (already submitted) Finalised Structure Plan.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The total cost of the Sustainability Appraisal is £9,300, half of which will be met by Angus Council and the remainder by the City Council. The City Council's contribution will be contained within the Planning and Transportation Department's 2001/2002 Revenue Budget.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Given its wide ranging socio-economic and environmental scope, the Sustainability Appraisal addresses all of the relevant key themes within Dundee's Local Agenda 21 and highlights the ways in which the Structure contributes towards its aim.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Sustainability Appraisal recognises the extent to which the revisions introduced in the Finalised Structure Plan have strengthened its provisions over a range of sustainability criteria. These include changes which have brought equal opportunities benefits. Examples of these are revisions which provide for affordable and special needs housing and which ensure that development in general takes place in areas most accessible by public transport.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Committee agreed at its meeting of 30 April 2001 to authorise the Director of Planning and Transportation, in conjunction with the Director of Planning and Transport, Angus Council, to appoint consultants to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan (Report No 215-2001). The Appraisal was viewed as a means of systematically assessing how effectively the Structure Plan was progressing towards sustainability goals and identifying measures to make it more sustainable. The Co-operative Advisory Group (CAG) was in due course appointed to undertake the project.
- 6.2 The first stage of the project involved the appraisal of the Consultative Draft Structure Plan, the results from which contributed towards finalising the Plan. The findings from the first stage Sustainability Appraisal, together with an outline of their influence on the Finalised Structure Plan were reported to the Planning and Transportation Committee of 17 December 2001 (Report No 708-2001 refers). This Committee also approved the Finalised Plan for submission to the Scottish Ministers. The Committee noted the contribution of the Sustainability Appraisal to the finalising process and also noted the intention to commence the second stage of the Appraisal.
- 6.3 The second stage of the exercise comprised an assessment of the Finalised Plan aimed at comparing it against the recommendations from the first stage Sustainability appraisal. The objective of this re-appraisal was to examine the responses to these recommendations and to ascertain to what extent they had improved the sustainability of the Plan. CAG has now completed this final aspect of the project and full details of their findings and conclusions can be seen in copies of their Report which are available for inspection in the Members' lounges. The following section outlines the key findings from the second stage Appraisal.

7 ASSESSMENT OF THE FINALISED STRUCTURE PLAN

- 7.1 The Consultants note that Dundee and Angus Councils considered the Appraisal to be a positive process which contributed to finalising the Structure Plan. They are also of the view that the Councils have examined the recommendations in depth and have made a large number of changes to the Plan which have improved its impact on a range of sustainability criteria.
- 7.2 Changes to the Plan which are viewed by the Consultants as having strengthened the Plan's sustainability impact include the following (brackets incorporate policy numbers):
- Revisions to the **Guiding Principles** to include a full range of sustainability criteria
 - Improvements to employment policies to take account of **regeneration** (EP2)
 - New policy to provide for **affordable and special needs housing** (HP6)
 - **Provision of housing land** is now in accordance with the development strategy which specifies that most new development will be accommodated within existing settlements (HP1, HP5)

- **Provision of housing in Dundee** by a combination of mixed development on brownfield sites, favouring houses rather than flats and the Dundee Western Gateway development will be kept under close review and monitored to ensure it meets its stated aims
- **The provision of employment land** now takes account of the need to use brownfield sites (EP2)
- Strengthening of policies on **transport proposals** to take account of environmental issues (TP1, TP3)
- Requiring **transport assessments and green travel plans** where developments will have significant transport impacts (DWG, TP3, TCRP4, TCRP5)
- Ensuring that development takes place in areas most accessible by **public transport** (TP3)
- Strengthened **protection for habitats and landscapes** (ERP1, ERP2, TP2).
- Strengthened **protection for coastline** (ERP3)
- Acknowledgement of the importance of the character and the quality of the **built environment and protection of open spaces** (ERP6)
- **Protection for the historic environment** (ERP6)
- Requiring recycled and secondary material to be considered when assessing **minerals' requirements** (ERP9)
- Encouraging development that supports **waste reduction and recycling** (ERP11)
- Requiring that **waste management developments** take account of a range of social and environmental impacts (ERP11)

7.3 The Consultants acknowledge that not all of their recommendations have been incorporated into the Plan as suggested and are either incorporated in other ways, or will be taken into account in Local Plans in the course of their review. They envisage no significant problems in re-addressing such recommendations as part of the Local Plan process.

7.4 The Consultants conclude that many changes have been made since the Draft Structure Plan which have integrated recommendations from the Sustainability Appraisal and significantly improved the Plan's performance against a range of sustainability criteria. Acknowledging the intention of the Councils to consider a number of the recommendations as part of the Local Plan review process, they note the potential of that exercise to improve the sustainability impact of these Plans.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The second stage of the Sustainability Appraisal demonstrates the significant advances made in strengthening the Structure Plan's performance relative to

sustainability criteria. The process of revising the Plan in response to the Appraisal recommendations has produced a more robust document which is consistent with and better geared to achieving its economic, social and environmental objectives. In a similar way, the Appraisal has generated a number of recommendations which will feed in to the Local Plan review process with potential sustainability benefits for these Plans.

9 CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Support Services, Director of Corporate Planning, Director of Economic Development and Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

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