

# Planning Committee

2.00pm, Wednesday, 2 October 2019

## Regional Planning in South East Scotland – referral report from SESplan Joint Committee

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
  - 1.1.1 notes the proposals for a Regional Growth Framework (RGF) to form part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal arrangements and that this includes coordination between the RGF, spatial planning and any Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) that the City of Edinburgh Council may be part of under emerging provisions of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019;
  - 1.1.2 notes that the existing South East Scotland Strategic Planning Authority (SESplan) could provide for this coordinating function in the interim until an agreed RSS governance is extant, as approved by the SESplan Joint Committee; and
  - 1.1.3 agree with the SESplan recommendation in respect of City Region Deal and spatial planning.

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

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# Report

## Regional Planning in South East Scotland – referral report from SESplan Joint Committee

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 Councillor Gardiner has asked that the report to the SESplan Joint Committee on revised Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal (ESESCRD) arrangements for the provision of a Regional Growth Framework and the role of spatial planning in this be brought to Planning Committee for consideration.
- 2.2 The report provides an update on the SESplan Joint Committee's decision on the proposed arrangements.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 On 3 September 2019 the Joint Committee of the ESESCRD approved the report at Appendix 1 which set out that there should be a Regional Growth Framework to provide a spatial context for the growth agenda of the ESESCRD.
- 3.2 In that report it was considered that the spatial context so provided be part of the structure of the ESESCRD and that there be a planning input to the RGF which would be aligned with any RSS emerging under the Planning (Scotland) 2019 Act. This included that there be an Elected Member Oversight Committee for the ESESCRD which would include two elected members with relevant portfolio areas (planning, transport, housing and economy) from each local authority area. This Committee would oversee and advise the ESESCRD Joint Committee and guide the development of the Regional Growth Framework. There would be professional planning policy input from officers of the local authority areas alongside transport, economy and housing input.
- 3.3 On 30 September 2019, the SESplan Joint Committee approved the report at Appendix 2 (with amendments as detailed at 4.3) which set out how the spatial planning roles of the RGF and an RSS could be considered in a coordinated way and that until RSS arrangements and governance come into being, SESplan could have a role for coordinating a spatial planning input to the ESESCRD.

## **4. Main report**

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- 4.1 The SESplan Joint Committee debated the report in terms of the role of planning in relation to matters of housing, economic development, sustainability and transport, the emerging opportunities for regional planning through an RSS and how SESplan might play a role with ESESCRD and an RGF.
- 4.2 The Joint Committee agreed with the first two recommendations of the report and modified the third.
- 4.3 The Joint Committee's decision was as follows:
  - 4.3.1 The Committee agreed Recommendations 1 and 2, and an amended Recommendation 3 to delegate to the Convenor and Vice Convenor to write to the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Executive Board setting out that:
    - 4.3.1.1 the existing SESplan Officer Board will act as a strategic spatial planning consultative board in respect of progressing a Regional Growth Framework, Regional Spatial Strategy, informing NPF4.
  - 4.3.2 In respect of the organisational diagram (as set out in Appendix A of The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee 'Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Growth Framework', 3 September 2019) the box entitled 'sustainability' should be replaced with 'Strategic Spatial Planning' to reflect the need for spatial planning across all land uses.
  - 4.3.3 In the report as referenced above, the Member Oversight Committee should have a scrutiny and advisory role to which the main outputs of officer work is reported.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Further reports will be dependent on the response of the ESESCRD Executive Board to the letter from the SESplan Convenor and Vice Convenor

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There are no financial impacts deriving from this report.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 The report is relevant to the SESplan Joint Committee in addressing ESESCRD organisation and does not require to be the subject of consultation.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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8.1 None

## **9. Appendices**

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9.1 Appendix 1 - [Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Growth Framework – Report](#) to the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee on 3 September 2019

9.2 Appendix 2 - [Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Emerging Governance Report](#) to SESplan Joint Committee on 3 September 2019