

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE

28 NOVEMBER 1996

SUBJECT: ANGUS AND DUNDEE STRUCTURE PLAN - JOINT ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION

Abstract: This report comments on liaison and joint working arrangements for the Angus and Dundee Structure Plan and further details the proposed approach in the light of responses from neighbouring authorities.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (I) notes the responses of Dundee City Council and Perth and Kinross Council to Structure Plan liaison arrangements both between adjacent Structure Plan areas and in respect of the Angus and Dundee Joint Structure Plan;
- (II) nominates three members of this Committee to represent Angus Council as part of the joint Structure Plan organisational arrangements with Dundee City Council; and
- (III) agrees the term "Joint Structure Plan Panel" to describe the mechanism for joint working arrangements on the Angus and Dundee Structure Plan among elected members from the respective Councils.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Committee, at its meeting on 28 February 1996, considered report No. 67/96 which outlined various mechanisms at elected member and officer level as a basis for dialogue on Structure Planning working arrangements with Dundee City Council and Perth and Kinross Council. In particular the Committee agreed:-

- (I) to invite the views of Dundee City Council on the establishment of a Joint Structure Plan Advisory Committee, comprising of elected members drawn from Angus Council and Dundee City Council for the purpose of advising on the preparation of the new Structure Plan for the Angus and Dundee Structure Plan area; and
- (II) to invite the views of Dundee City Council and of Perth and Kinross Council on liaison arrangements between the respective Structure Plan areas for Angus and Dundee and for Perth and Kinross.

2.2 This report indicates the responses of these neighbouring authorities and suggests more detailed organisational arrangements for joint working where appropriate taking account of the views of the other two Councils.

3 RESPONSES FROM OTHER COUNCILS

- 3.1 Following earlier consideration of possible working arrangements the Planning and Transportation Committee of Dundee City Council have now agreed to establish a panel of three elected members of the City Council to address joint Structure Plan issues and mechanisms with Angus Council. This non-executive panel would receive reports on Structure Plan matters from officers of the City Council and would meet with Angus Council members to discuss Structure Plan activities including strategies, timescale, responsibilities and budgetary considerations. The City Council have also indicated that there is no desire on their part to replicate this form of relationship along other parts of the Dundee City boundary, namely with Perth and Kinross.
- 3.2 The Planning and Economic Development Committee of Perth and Kinross Council have considered arrangements for liaison with adjoining Structure Plan areas and have agreed that liaison should be primarily at officer level, with member meetings as required to resolve major strategic land use policy issues.

4 DISCUSSION

Liaison between Structure Plan Areas

- 4.1 It is clear that neither Dundee City Council nor Perth and Kinross Council favour formal standing liaison arrangements at elected member level between the two Structure Plan areas in the former Tayside area. In these circumstances this Council's previous suggestion for a Structure Plan Liaison Group at elected member level can not now be pursued.
- 4.2 However, regular liaison will be required on strategic planning issues of joint interest and this will continue to be undertaken at officer level in the first instance with significant issues reported to this Committee for consideration and decision. A recent example of such liaison is the response to National Guidance on Structure Plan Housing Land Policy (report No. 838/96 refers).
- 4.3 Arrangements for joint publication of the Tayside Structure Plan 1993, when finally approved by the Secretary of State, will also be required. Strategic planning policies for the area to the west of Dundee, where the boundaries of the three Councils meet, will continue to be of particular mutual interest and require a co-ordinated response including policies on housing land release and infrastructure.

Angus and Dundee Joint Structure Plan

- 4.4 Dundee City Council's recent decision to establish a member panel complements the proposals for a joint advisory mechanism previously agreed by this Committee. In particular report 67/96 indicated that a small number of elected members drawn equally from each Council (perhaps three or four members from each Council) could provide:-
- a forum for liaison and information dissemination on relevant strategic planning issues including joint monitoring activities on the current Structure Plan;

- advice on, and a sounding board for, the preparation of the new Structure Plan focusing on key issues including inputs from each of the Councils;
- the mechanism for reporting back to the parent Committees/Councils on issues requiring corporate executive decisions.

4.5 It is therefore now appropriate for this Committee to nominate three members to represent Angus as part of the joint Structure Plan organisational arrangements with Dundee City Council.

4.6 Report 67/96 recognised that various terms could potentially be used to describe the mechanisms for joint working arrangements among elected members from the respective Councils. Dundee City Council favour the term "Panel" rather than "Advisory Committee" for the purpose of joint working at elected member level.

4.7 The term "Panel" does not appear in the relevant sections of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 and could potentially be confused with the "Panel" appointed by the Secretary of State where an Examination in Public of a Structure Plan is required. Notwithstanding this it appears that there is broad agreement between the two Councils on the approach to joint working arrangements and in this wider context the term "Joint Structure Plan Panel" may be an acceptable description of the role envisaged in paragraph 4.4 above.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Executive and Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 This report indicates responses received from Dundee City Council and from Perth and Kinross Council on Structure Plan liaison arrangements and further details joint working mechanisms for the Angus and Dundee Structure Plan.

NOTE

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

AA/CGR/KW
20 November 1996

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