

ITEM 10 – SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE CROSS BOUNDARY GREEN NETWORKS

Report by: Alice Miles, Acting SDP Manager

Purpose

This report seeks SESplan Joint Committee approval of the following supplementary guidance for public consultation:

- Edinburgh and West Green Network Priority Area Strategic Framework; and
- Edinburgh and East Green Network Priority Area Strategic Framework.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the SESplan Joint Committee:

1. Approve the Edinburgh and West and Edinburgh and East Edinburgh Green Network Priority Area Strategic Frameworks as set out in Appendices 1 – 2 for public consultation;
2. Note that proposals for engagement and consultation on the Edinburgh and West and Edinburgh and East Green Network Priority Area Strategic Frameworks are considered at paragraph 3.1 onwards of this report; and
3. Agree that minor editorial changes of a non policy nature to the Edinburgh and West and Edinburgh and East Green Network Priority Area Strategic Frameworks are delegated to the Acting SDP Manager in consultation with the Chair of the SESplan Project Board.

Resource Implications

As set out below.

Legal and Risk Implications

Paragraphs 5.17 – 5.21 of the second strategic proposed plan set out the requirement to prepare supplementary guidance on cross boundary green network priority areas. The proposed plan is currently under examination by the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) of the Scottish Government.

The report of examination is anticipated to be finalised by the end of June, with a decision by Scottish Ministers on the approval of the second strategic plan currently expected around September 2018. There is a risk that the report of examination and / or the Minister may make modifications to the green network section of the plan. Such modifications may include changes to the context and outline of the guidance or the removal of the need to prepare guidance at all.

The guidance may therefore be required to be amended or withdrawn following the publication of the report of examination and brought back to SESplan Joint Committee in November for consideration for a second time. However, the reporter has sought no further information on this area of the proposed plan through the examination; therefore the risk of this part of the plan being significantly amended is considered to be low.

All risks are detailed in the SESplan Risk Register and reported to SESplan Joint Committee on an annual basis.

Policy and Impact Assessment

No separate impact assessment is required.

1. Background

- 1.1 The second proposed plan was submitted to the [DPEA](#) for examination on the 26 June 2017. The lead reporter was appointed on the 6 July 2017 and further to an assessment of the Statement of Conformity with the Participation Statement, the examination formally commenced on the 14 August 2017.
- 1.2 Under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008, the appointed reporter can request, by way of notice, further information in connection with the examination. Twelve further information requests (FIR) have been received to date. SESplan have submitted responses to all FIRs for consideration by the reporter, with all responses and comments submitted by SESplan and other parties available for view / download on the [DPEA](#) website. No FIRs have been received on the green network area of the plan.
- 1.3 The target date for the report of examination to be published was the 6 April. Following the submission of the last information request on the 18 May, the DPEA have advised in the latest case update (18 May) that the reporters have now received all of the responses to the latest request for further information and do not envisage any further procedure being necessary. They hope to complete the report of the examination by end of June.

1.4 Once Ministers have received the report of examination, Section 13 of the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006, allows them to approve Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2 in whole or in part (with or without modifications) or reject the plan. Where there has been an examination, Ministers may make modifications in approving the plan and will set out reasons for these. Subject to the report of examination being completed by the end of June, a decision by Ministers on the approval of SDP2 is anticipated around September 2018.

2. Supplementary Guidance

2.1 Table 3.1 of the proposed plan requires that development takes account of principles for placemaking. Of particular relevance to supplementary guidance on green network priority areas are the following principles:

- Areas important for maintaining the character, landscape setting and distinctive identity of existing and proposed settlements should be protected and enhanced, particularly where they are needed to avoid the coalescence of settlements;
- It should be easy for people to access green / open space, including places where they can enjoy nature;
- Developments should be located within a network of green and blue infrastructure that provide a pleasant outlook for the people living and working there; and
- Green networks should be multifunctional. They should comprise infrastructure that provides a range of benefits and can be adapted and enhanced depending on the local need for growing spaces, play spaces, natural spaces, public parks, sustainable drainage and the need to adapt to climate change.

2.2 Paragraphs 5.19 onwards of the proposed plan sets out that two cross boundary green network priority areas and eight additional green network priority areas have been identified within the SESplan region. These indicate broad areas of greatest strategic importance for green network protection and enhancement and represent a significant component of the Central Scotland Green Network identified as a National Development in National Planning Framework (NPF) 3.

2.3 Paragraph 5.20 sets out that SESplan will prepare strategic frameworks for the Edinburgh and West and South East Edinburgh Green Network Priority Areas and adopt these as supplementary guidance within one year of the approval of SDP2.

2.4 Appendices 1 and 2 illustrate the strategic priorities for the green network within Edinburgh and West and Edinburgh and East. These priorities include existing components which should be safeguarded and enhanced, and new components which should be created and integrated with the existing network.

2.5 The Edinburgh and West and Edinburgh and East Green Network Priority Area Strategic Frameworks are intended to provide additional context for land use planning strategy and decisions at the Local Development Plan (LDP) (and its associated supplementary guidance) level. The SESplan member authorities may choose to include a requirement for developer contributions towards additions to or improvements of the green network where appropriate.

3. Consultation

3.1 As set out at paragraph 140 onwards of Circular 6/2013 (Development Planning), authorities must publicise the guidance they have drafted, make people who may wish to comment aware of the guidance and give them opportunity to comment, setting a date before which representations may be made.

3.2 Subject to approval, the Edinburgh and West and South East Edinburgh Green Network Priority Area Strategic Frameworks will be published for consultation in August 2018 for an eight week period. The frameworks will be available to view / download on the [Committee](#) page of the SESplan website from five days prior to the 25 June Joint Committee meeting, although no representations will be able to be submitted until the start of the formal consultation process in August.

3.3 Development Plan Scheme (DPS) 10 was published in March 2018 and contains the SESplan Participation Statement. This includes information on engagement as follows:

- SESplan will raise awareness of strategic development planning while engaging and involving key stakeholders throughout the plan making process;
- Develop awareness of SESplan through communication and promotion;
- Seek ways to engage with and involve key stakeholders throughout the whole process of producing the SDP;
- Make information available as early as possible;
- Produce information in an easy to use format;
- Ensure that arrangements for participation are as inclusive and open as possible; and
- Offer the opportunity to be involved to as many groups as possible.

3.4 SESplan will use a number of tools to reach as wide an audience as possible and within means which are practical and available to us. In particular we will:

- Make extensive use of electronic communication including our website, social media, consultation portal and those of our member authority partners, to promote plan awareness and encourage engagement;

- Build upon and develop existing partnerships and working relationships, for example with key agencies and regional economic groups, to facilitate greater input; and
- Develop individual strategies on how best to engage with key stakeholders; recognising the limitations of a one size fits all approach.

3.5 SESplan aim to exceed the minimum requirements for public participation and engagement. In particular we will:

- Ensure consultation material is written in clear, plain English with attractive graphics; and
- Communicate throughout the consultation process and provide updates as the plan progresses.

4. Next Steps

4.1 Further to the close of the public consultation, the representations received will be considered and a further report on the submission of the guidance to Ministers brought to the November 2018 meeting of the SESplan Joint Committee.

4.2 The content of supplementary guidance does not need to be scrutinised at examination given that the principle of the policy or proposal will have already been scrutinised and included within SDP2. For submission, SESplan must send a copy of the guidance together with a publicity statement setting out the consultation measures undertaken, comments received and an explanation as to how these comments were taken into account to Ministers. After 28 days have elapsed, the authority may adopt the guidance unless Scottish Ministers have directed otherwise.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Edinburgh and West Green Network Priority Area Strategic Framework

Appendix 2 - Edinburgh and East Edinburgh Green Network Priority Area Strategic Framework

Report Contact

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