

# Planning Performance Framework

2017 - 2018

ABERDEEN CITY AND SHIRE

Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA)

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Aberdeen City and Shire is a growing and economically dynamic City Region with high quality environmental assets and exceptional quality of life. The Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA), in partnership with others, has a key role in shaping the future development of the area.
- 1.2. Aberdeen City and Shire is one of four City Regions in Scotland and is made up of the administrative areas of Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council. The area covered by the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) excludes that part of Aberdeenshire within the Cairngorms National Park (Refer: Figure 1).
- 1.3. This is the ninth annual report of the SDPA since its formation in 2008. This report covers the period from 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. The Audited Accounts of the SDPA for 2017 - 2018 will be published separately.
- 1.4. This year the workload of the Authority has largely focused on monitoring the implementation of the existing Strategic Development Plan as well as preparatory work for the next Plan via the preparation of a Main Issues Report. The Authority has also been actively involved in contributing to the Scottish Government's ongoing review of the Scottish planning system.
- 1.5. This report provides the opportunity to both review the achievements of the past year and look forward to the year ahead.
- 1.6. All 32 Local Planning Authorities, 4 Strategic Development Planning Authorities and 2 National Park Authorities in Scotland prepare performance reports in a common format. Due to the particular function of the Strategic Development Planning Authorities, their reports are more limited in scope. This report has been prepared in accordance with the April 2018 version of the guidance for Planning Performance Frameworks.



Figure 1: Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan Area

## 2. Planning Performance Framework 2016 - 2017

Table 1: Performance Against Key Markers 2016 - 2017

No.	Performance Marker	RAG Rating	Comments
6	<b>Continuous improvement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• progress/improvement in relation to PPF National Headline Indicators; and</li> <li>• progress ambitious and relevant service improvement commitments identified through PPF report</li> </ul>	Green	<p>You have achieved all the key outcomes in the National Headline Indicators.</p> <p>You indicate you have accomplished all of your Service Improvement Commitments, with further work on two of the actions being carried over into the 2017 - 2018 year. You also identify two additional Service Improvement Commitments for the coming year.</p>
7	<b>Strategic development plan</b> less than 5 years since adoption	Green	The SDP remains up-to-date.
8	<b>Development plan scheme</b> – next LDP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on course for adoption within 5 years of current plan(s) adoption; and</li> <li>• project planned and expected to be delivered to planned timescale</li> </ul>	Green	<p>Your SDP remains on course for adoption within the statutory period.</p> <p>It is clear you are aware of and prepared for the possible constraints posed by impending election cycles and will plan accordingly to ensure that SDP development remains on track.</p>
9	<b>Elected members engaged early</b> (pre-MIR) in development plan preparation – <i>if plan has been at pre-MIR stage during reporting year</i>	Green	We note evidence of early engagement of Elected Members through the joint Nestrans seminar and workshops with SDPA members.

No.	Performance Marker	RAG Rating	Comments
10	<b>Cross sector stakeholders* engaged early</b> (pre-MIR) in development plan preparation – <i>if plan has been at pre-MIR stage during reporting year</i>  <i>*including industry, agencies and Scottish Government</i>	Amber	Although you did not meet your Development Plan Scheme engagement/consultation commitments, we welcome mention of your intention to engage stakeholders via the online engagement tool “Dialogue” in preparation for the production of a Main Issues report.
13	<b>Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge</b> between authorities	Green	You demonstrate a commitment to sharing good practice through your regular meetings with other SDPAs and attendance at central and local government training sessions.

Table 2: Performance Against Key Markers 2012 - 2017

No.	Marker	2012 - 13	2013 - 14	2014 - 15	2015 - 16	2016 - 17
6	Continuous improvement:					
7	Strategic development plan					
8	Development plan scheme					
9	Elected members engaged early (pre-MIR)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
10	Stakeholders engaged early (pre-MIR)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
13	Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge					

### 3. Defining and Measuring a High Quality Planning Service

#### Quality of Outcomes

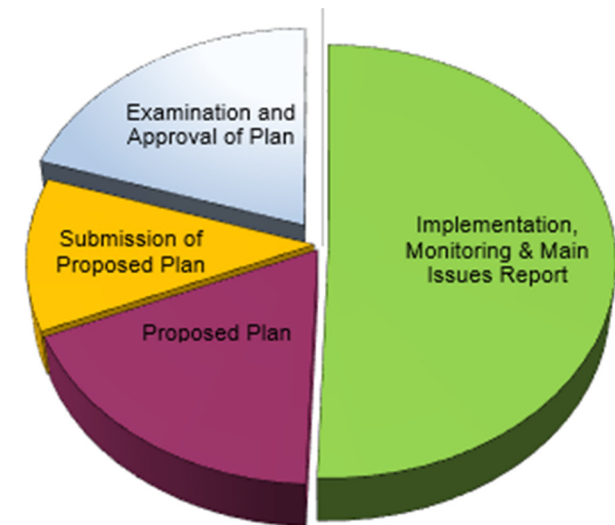
- 2.1 The Strategic Development Planning Authority was established in 2008 through the implementation of the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006, meeting for the first time on 18 September 2008. The SDPA's initial task was to take a Structure Plan forward for approval by Scottish Ministers, taking over this role from the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Planning Committee.
- 2.2 The Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan was approved by Scottish Ministers without modification in August 2009 and was commended at that year's Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning. A replacement Strategic Development Plan (SDP) has now also been prepared and was approved by Scottish Ministers on 28 March 2014, within five years of the previously approved Structure Plan.
- 2.3 The SDP provides certainty for the public, development industry and businesses as to the where and when development will take place. It is supported by an Action Programme which sets out what actions are needed for the targets and objectives in the Plan to be delivered, who is responsible for delivering them, and the expected timescale for doing this.
- 2.4 The SDP sets the strategic framework for the delivery of high quality development on the ground, focusing as it does on the delivery of sustainable mixed communities. The Plan explicitly targets national recognition for schemes, with award-winning schemes being highlighted to the SDPA on a regular basis. A recent example is the Marischal Square development on the site of the former Aberdeen City Council headquarters in Aberdeen (Refer: Figures 2 and 3).



Figures 2 and 3: Marischal Square, Broad Street, Aberdeen

- 2.5 The SDP area is one of the most economically dynamic in the whole of the UK, built on a strong presence from the oil and gas industry. One of the primary purposes of the SDP is to facilitate this growth and direct it to the most sustainable locations. The cost of a barrel of oil has fluctuated significantly since the economic crash in 2014 and has been slowly rising since July 2017. At the end of 2017 the price reached \$66.73 and has remained consistently above \$60 throughout 2018.
- 2.6 Local Development Plans (LDPs) consistent with the Strategic Development Plan were adopted by both Councils in early 2017 (Aberdeen City in January 2017 and Aberdeenshire in April 2017) so the whole area has an up-to-date Development Plan. These were the first two second-generation LDPs in Scotland. Work is now ongoing by each Council to commence preparation on the third LDPs for their areas.
- 2.7 A Development Plan Scheme has been published for the year ahead, with consultation on a Main Issues Report scheduled for March – May 2018, and the subsequent publication of a Proposed SDP in the autumn. These dates have been pushed back since last year's Performance Framework report. It had been anticipated that consultation on the Main Issues Report would take place during 2017, however publication of this document was delayed due to the timing of the Supreme Court case for the Strategic Transport Fund and work associated with the Scottish Government's review of the planning system.
- 2.8 Due to these unexpected delays at Main Issues Report stage, the Strategic Development Plan will not be replaced by its 5th anniversary. Work is however ongoing to ensure that submission of a Proposed Plan to Scottish Ministers is subject to no further delay. It is anticipated that the Proposed Plan will be submitted for Examination in March 2019. The time likely to be spent on the various stages of plan preparation is set out in Figure 4.
- 2.9 In March 2018 the SDPA wrote to Kevin Stewart MSP, the Minister for Local Government and Housing to update the Scottish Government on the delay to the review timetable, and to formally request that Scottish Ministers choose to use the "Default Powers" afforded to them under Section 23B of

Figure 4: SDPA Five Year Plan Preparation Cycle



Note: The Pie diagram represents the five year plan preparation cycle, with the Main Issue Report stage not starting immediately after the approval of the previous plan.



the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and instruct the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority to continue to produce a Strategic Development Plan for the area.

#### Housing Need and Demand Assessment

- 2.10 The Housing Need and Demand Assessment is an extensive document produced in a collaboration between the Strategic Development Planning Authority, Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeen City Council. The Housing Need and Demand Assessment provides an evidence base for the housing supply targets discussed in the Main Issues Report. Throughout the last year the Strategic Development Planning Authority has spent considerable time finalising this document, production of which first started in 2014 - 2015.
- 2.11 In line with best practice, the Housing Need and Demand Assessment was submitted to the Centre for Housing Market Analysis at the Scottish Government for review. Confirmation was received on 8 March 2018 that the Scottish Government's Centre for Housing Market Analysis consider that the process and methodology used to produce the Aberdeen City and Shire Housing Need and Demand Assessment was robust and credible.

#### Planning Reform

- 2.12 The SDPA has been an active participator in the Scottish Government's reform of the Scottish land use planning system. The Scottish Government announced a review of the planning system in June 2015 and an independent panel published their report "Empowering Planning to Deliver Great Places" on 31 May 2016. The panel's report included significant recommendations regarding planning and infrastructure provision at the City Region scale.
- 2.13 Following the publication of the 'Places, People and Planning' consultation in January 2017, meetings took place between SDPA Officers, Nestrans and both Councils to inform the respective responses. The SDPA's response was agreed at its meeting of March 2017.
- 2.14 On 4 December 2017 the Planning (Scotland) Bill was introduced by the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, Angela Constance MSP. The Local Government and Communities Committee subsequently launched a call for evidence to which SDPA Officers prepared a response which was agreed at the SDPA meeting on 1 February 2018.



## Strategic Development Planning Authority - Other Activities

- 2.15 Over the past year the SDPA has continued to facilitate a range of proposals of strategic importance identified in the Strategic Development Plan, some of which have been designated as National Developments in National Planning Framework 3. These included a carbon capture proposal at Peterhead, a potential electricity interconnector to Norway (NorthConnect), as well as various transport and electricity transmission projects.
- 2.16 The SDPA was involved in the preparatory work leading to the City Region Deal for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire announced in January 2016, focusing in particular on the housing and transport themes. This work continued into 2017 - 2018, with the SDPA represented on the Transport Working Group (along with Transport Scotland, Nestrans and the two Councils). This Group is focused on preparing a Strategic Transport Appraisal; a £7 million project to identify future transport infrastructure projects to feed into national, regional and local transport and land use strategies.
- 2.17 The SDPA has also been involved this year in the stakeholder group for the Regional Marine Strategy. The SDPA has attended workshops and offered input into the process of developing the Regional Marine Strategy which will be an ongoing process over the years to come.
- 2.18 During the past year the SDPA has also participated in the Nestrans project to upgrade the Regional Transport Model (Aberdeen Sub Area Model - ASAM) and the subsequent upgrade of the Transport and Economic Land-Use Model of Scotland (TELMoS), with a particular focus on the development planning inputs required to create more accurate modelling. As a result, the SDPA were asked to present 'A Town Planner's Experience of Land Use Transport Interaction modelling' to Transport Scotland's Appraisal and Modelling User Group.
- 2.19 The four SDPA Officer Teams have been in frequent communication throughout the year. The four Teams met twice during the year with a focus on sharing best practice as well as inputting to the strategic elements of planning reform and sharing experiences of engaging with City Region Deals.
- 2.20 The Strategic Development Planning Authority were also this year asked to be part of the Oxford Brookes University study on 'The Effect of Offshore Wind Farms on the Human Environment'. This is an ongoing study and the final results will be published at the end of 2019.

### Strategic Transport Fund

- 2.21 During the past year a conclusion has been reached on the legal challenge to the adoption of the Supplementary Guidance on the Strategic Transport Fund.
- 2.22 Following its adoption in June 2015, Elsick Development Company Ltd submitted a legal challenge to the adoption of the Supplementary Guidance at the Court of Session, with a hearing taking place in early March 2016. The court of Session issued its judgement in late April 2016, sustaining the appeal and quashing the Supplementary Guidance on the basis that planning obligations to contribute to the pooled Strategic Transport Fund breached the terms of Circular 3/2012, and that any such planning obligation must fairly and reasonably relate to development subject to the planning permission.
- 2.23 Leave to appeal the Court of Session's decision was obtained by the SDPA in late December 2016, and a hearing took place in June 2017 before the Supreme Court in Edinburgh. On 25 October 2017 the Supreme Court announced their decision to unanimously dismiss the SDPA's appeal. The decision considered that the Strategic Transport Fund Supplementary Guidance, and the planning obligations which it promoted, were unlawful as the link between the infrastructure to be funded by the planning obligation was deemed to have no more than a trivial connection to the development. The scheme was not considered to be unlawful because it did not comply with the Circular. The Circular was simply a material consideration which was required to be taken into account but not necessarily followed. The Supreme Court is the final point of appeal in the United Kingdom and their decision is final.
- 2.24 Reaching the conclusion of this legal challenge has led to significant additional financial and workload pressures on the SDPA during the last year, with both Councils agreeing to support the legal costs of the appeal. The Strategic Development Planning Authority were also this year asked to be part of the Oxford Brookes University study on 'The Effect of Offshore Wind Farms on the Human Environment'. This is an ongoing study and the final results will be published at the end of 2019.

### Quality of Service and Engagement

- 2.25 The SDPA Meeting Agenda normally includes a Bulletin which is designed to inform Members and other interested parties of a range of matters related to the work of the SDPA, but where decisions are not required. This included updates on various aspects of Plan implementation in terms of both Local Development Plan progress, infrastructure projects and strategic planning applications related to the SDP's proposals.
- 2.26 The SDPA responded to a number of policy consultations during the year. These included the Scottish Government's consultation on the future of the planning system in Scotland ('Places, People and Planning'), the call for evidence on the Planning (Scotland) Bill 2017, and the Scottish Government's Energy Consultation Paper.
- 2.27 In addition, a number of responses were made on regionally significant planning applications. These included responses to an application for a new 20,000-seater football stadium and training facilities at Kingsford, Aberdeen, as well as a new residential development at Cairnbulg, Aberdeenshire.
- 2.28 In order to gauge levels of engagement, the use of the SDPA website is regularly monitored. A particular focus is put on site traffic during consultation periods when activity increases significantly. An electronic mailing system was introduced on the launch of the SDPA's website in 2008. Recipients range from interested individuals, community groups, neighbouring planning authorities, developers and consultants. Due to the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation, respondents of the mailing list will be required to re-register in order to continue to receive updates. The Authority aims to issue news updates to its mailing list at key points during Plan preparation and implementation.
- 2.29 In order to enhance customer experience, the SDPA has pioneered the use of Plain English for Strategic Development Plans. The current Strategic Development Plan achieved a 'Crystal Mark' from the Plain English Campaign, and the emerging Main Issues Report has also been reviewed by the Plain English Campaign and changes made to the document prior to its publication based on their suggestions. The purpose of the Plain English accreditation is to recognise the importance of clear communication with customers.
- 2.30 Preparation of the Main Issues Report has included significant engagement with Councillors, Senior Council Officers and Key Agencies. The Main Issues Report was produced through extensive consultation with the Local Development Plan Teams of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils. Discussions have also taken place with Key Agencies and Homes For Scotland. A workshop was held at the

September 2017 meeting of the SDPA which informed Elected Members of a number of potential Main Issues which Officers were considering for inclusion in a draft Main Issues Report. Comments provided by stakeholders were reflected as the Main Issues Report was finalised.

- 2.31 Consultation on the Main Issues Report has been publicised widely. A notice was placed in the Press and Journal newspaper on 12 March 2018 announcing the start of the consultation period, and providing information on how members of the public could respond. This was accompanied by other announcements on social media utilising the existing Facebook and Twitter accounts of both Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Teams. The publication of the Main Issues Report and its supporting documents were also made available on the SDPA website within a separate 'Consultations' section. Copies of the Main Issues Report were distributed to all libraries and Council offices throughout the Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council areas, and a questionnaire was also distributed widely and published online.
- 2.32 Community Councils and Key Agencies have been notified of the consultation, and invited to make representation. Notification has also been served on Local Authorities within and adjoining the SDPA area, as well as Scottish Ministers and the neighbouring Strategic Development Plan Authority for Dundee, Angus, Perth and North Fife (TAYplan). SDPA Officer will also attend a number of consultation events with Community Councils and run a workshop session with Homes For Scotland.

### Governance

- 2.33 The SDPA is made up of twelve Councillors, six from Aberdeen City Council and six from Aberdeenshire Council. It is currently chaired by Councillor Marie Boulton (Aberdeen City Council) who took up the role in January 2017. Councillor John Cox (Aberdeenshire Council) is the Vice Chair having participated in the SDPA for a number of years.
- 2.34 The City Growth Committee (previously known as the Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Committee) of Aberdeen City Council and the Infrastructure Services Committee of Aberdeenshire Council have been the two committees with a Development Plan remit, while the six Area Committees of Aberdeenshire Council have a consultative role.
- 2.35 The SDPA is advised by three professional advisors: the Heads of Planning from both Councils and the SDP Lead Officer. The SDPA meet a minimum of four times a year, coinciding with key decision-making events in the life of the Strategic Development Plan. There is the

provision for additional meetings if required. Attendance at the meetings is open to the public, with papers available in advance on the Strategic Development Planning Authority website - <http://www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk/>

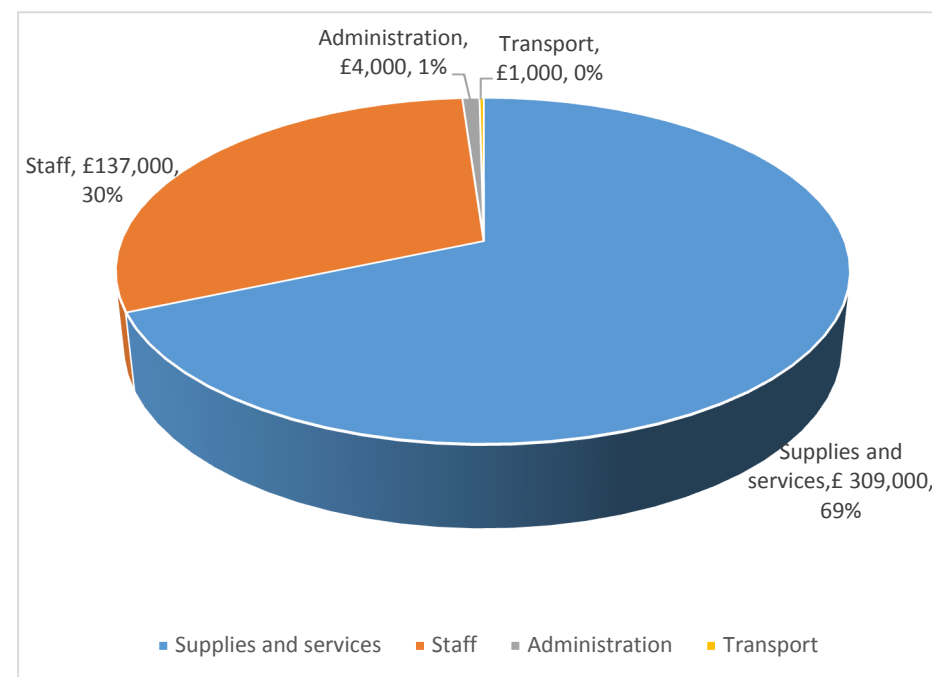
- 2.36 The work of the SDPA is supported by a small dedicated Officer team. A Management Steering Group comprises the SDP Lead Officer as well as Senior Officers and the Heads of Planning from the two constituent Councils. Meetings are arranged on a regular basis to direct the focus of the SDPA and consider reports for subsequent meetings of the Authority.
- 2.37 The schedule of meeting dates for the Strategic Development Planning Authority for 2017 - 2018 were as follows:
- 30 June 2017
  - 20 September 2017
  - 01 February 2017
  - 21 March 2018
- 2.38 Appropriate powers are delegated to the SDPA to ensure that decisions only need to be ratified at key points in the Strategic Development Plan process, primarily the agreement of the Proposed Plan. This ensures that the Authority is effectively able to co-ordinate the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan and associated work streams without constant referral to the partner Councils.
- 2.39 The SDPA is governed by a Minute of Agreement between Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council as well as a set of Financial Regulations, both of which are publically available on the SDPA website. Aberdeenshire Council act as Treasurer to the Authority.

- 2.40 The SDPA is audited on an annual basis as part of Audit Scotland's local government audit activities. The Auditors Report and Audited Statement of Accounts are published annually on the SDPA website.
- 2.41 A budget for the SDPA is set and agreed on an annual basis, with indicative budgets produced for the following two years. The SDPA consider a Budget Monitoring Report at least three times a year and also agree Unaudited and Audited Accounts on an annual basis.
- 2.42 Costs for 2017 - 2018 were £451,000. This was higher than the previous year, and higher than the figure budgeted for, due primarily to the costs of the legal case against the Strategic Transport Fund.

### Culture of Continuous Improvement

- 2.43 During the year staff benefited from a range of opportunities to share good practice and training opportunities – these included the LATIS conference, the Marine Planning Conference and training on Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs) and use of the Scottish Statistics Website.
- 2.44 Officers across Scotland's four SDPA meet on a quarterly basis to focus on innovating together and sharing good practice. The benefits of this have included joint approaches to the Scottish Government and joint actions to improve processes and guidance.

Figure 5: SDPA Expenditure 2017 - 2018 (Unaudited)



## 4. Supporting Evidence

This report was compiled drawing on evidence from the following sources:

- Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan (2014)
- Strategic Development Plan Action Programme (2014)
- Aberdeen City and Shire Main Issues Report (2018)
- Development Plan Scheme (2018)
- Strategic Development Plan Monitoring Report (March 2018)
- Housing Need and Demand Assessment (2017)
- Housing Land Audit 2017
- Employment Land Audit 2015 - 2016
- Minute of Agreement and Standing Orders (Version 2, 2010)
- Audited Statement of Accounts 2016 - 2017
- Report by External Auditors 2016 - 2017
- Unaudited Statement of Accounts 2017 - 2018
- Scottish Government SDP Approval Letter (March 2014)
- SDPA Website – [www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk)
- SDPA Committee Reports, Decisions and Minutes



## 5. Service Improvements

- 5.1. The SDPA identified four service improvement commitments for 2017 - 2018, and progress on these is set out in Table 3 below. Commitments for 2018 - 2019 are identified in Table 4 of this report. Due to the size of the SDPA Officer Team (just one or two members of staff throughout the year) and the 5-year cyclical nature of its operations, it is often difficult to deliver actions within a set financial year.

**Table 3: SDPA Service Improvements 2017 - 2018**

	Service Improvements 2017/18	Complete (Yes / No)
<b>1</b>	Develop a series of easily updatable infographics which can be used across the four Strategic Development Planning Authority areas.	Ongoing  Discussions with the Aberdeen City Graphic Design Team have taken place in order to determine how the existing infographics presented in the SDP can be improved. Given the uncertainties resulting from the Planning Review and the future of the SDPAs, a decision has been taken to progress with this exercise independently and then share findings with the other SDPAs at a later date rather than to try and collectively design and agree a common template / themes across all four SDPA areas at this time.
<b>2</b>	Work with the other SDPAs to co-ordinate materials for Councillor inductions after the May 2017 elections.	Yes  Briefing material on the SDPA and SDP was prepared following the May 2017 elections. This was prepared in discussion with the other SDPAs, albeit ensuring that City Region specific issues were addressed.
<b>3</b>	Use the new Twitter account to facilitate engagement on the next SDP.	Ongoing  The first stage in this process was to undertake the preparatory work to enable a Twitter account to be implemented. Further research was

	Service Improvements 2017/18	Complete (Yes / No)
		<p>then undertaken on the likely effectiveness of this tool given the uncertainties surrounding the future of the SDPA. A decision was taken not to set up an individual account which may need to be closed again in a short period, but rather to utilise the existing Local Development Team Facebook and Twitter accounts from both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council to promote the work of the Strategic Development Planning Authority. This position will be reviewed in the year to come as the Planning (Scotland) Bill progresses through the Scottish Parliament.</p>
4	Use the online engagement tool 'Dialogue' to facilitate discussion on the Main Issues Report.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>A review exercise was undertaken to determine the usefulness of the online engagement tool 'Dialogue'. This review found that the online tool had been implemented in partnership with Community Planning in Aberdeenshire Council who trialled it via engagement on the Aberdeenshire Children's Services Plan 2017-2020 during November / December 2016. SDPA Officers spoke with the Team involved and invited them to share their experiences. It was concluded that, although a useful tool, 'Dialogue' is not set up to be used as a formal consultation tool in the way the SDP would require for the Main Issues Report consultation. As such, use of 'Dialogue' was postponed, but the SDPA will continue to consider other ways where online engagement opportunities could be usefully explored in the future, and where 'Dialogue' in particular could be utilised.</p>

### The Year Ahead

- 5.2. In the early part of 2018 - 2019, work will focus on consultation on the SDP's Main Issues Report (MIR). This consultation is scheduled from 12 March – 21 May 2018 and will involve active consultation with local communities, the development industry and other local interest groups and stakeholders. Responses that are submitted to the MIR consultation will be reviewed over the summer months and, along with a number of engagement exercises with Senior Council Officers, the Key Agencies and Council Members, will inform the preparation of a Proposed Strategic Development Plan and all associated supporting assessments and documents.
- 5.3. The Proposed Plan will be subject to approval by the SDPA at the August 2018 meeting of the Authority, and will then go on to be ratified by both Councils. Consultation on the Proposed Plan is expected towards the end of 2018.
- 5.4. In addition to the above, the monitoring and reporting work associated with the Planning (Scotland) Bill will be ongoing and, as the Bill travels through the various parliamentary stages towards Royal Assent, Officers will begin to consider how the provisions of the Bill can be delivered and resourced.
- 5.5. Work will also continue with Nestrans to ensure the work on the review of the Regional Transport Strategy is closely aligned with the Proposed SDP.
- 5.6. The Service Improvements for 2018 - 2019 are outlined in Table 4.

**Table 4: SDPA Service Improvements 2018/19**

No	Service Improvements 2018 - 2019
1	<p><b>Prepare and consult on a Proposed Strategic Development Plan</b></p> <p>The SDPA is committed to producing and consulting on a Proposed Strategic Development Plan in the year to come. This will involve significant engagement with Senior Council Officers, Elected Members, the development industry, the Key Agencies as well as members of the public, Community Councils and other local interest groups. This is likely to include a range of focused workshops, seminars and briefing sessions as well as attendance at various meetings and events.</p>
2	<p><b>Monitor progress on, and support the delivery of, the Planning (Scotland) Bill 2017</b></p> <p>The Planning (Scotland) Bill published in December 2017 removes the requirement to prepare Strategic Development Plans. The Bill is currently at Stage 1 in the parliamentary process and targeted to receive Royal Assent sometime late 2018. Transitional arrangements will then follow, along with details of secondary legislation. The SDPA will continue to work with the two Councils and the Scottish Government on the delivery of the provisions of the Bill as more information becomes available.</p>
3	<p><b>Contribute to the preparation of National Planning Framework 4</b></p> <p>Preparation of an enhanced National Planning Framework 4 is likely to begin in the 2018 - 2019 year, and the SDPA will work with the two Councils and Scottish Government to contribute to this process as appropriate.</p>
4	<p><b>Continue communication and benchmarking / sharing of best practice with the other Strategic Development Planning Authorities across Scotland</b></p> <p>The SDPA will continue to work with the other SDPAs across Scotland to share experiences and best practice and discuss relevant strategic and regional matters. The SDPA Managers / Lead Officers will continue to meet regularly.</p>

5.7. Five meetings of the SDPA are planned for 2018/19, although the nature of the work over the year means that another meeting may be required. The schedule for SDPA Committee meetings are as follows:

- 27 June 2018
- 24 August 2018
- 26 September 2018
- 19 December 2018
- 20 March 2019

## 6. National Headline Indicators

6.1 This section reports on the Key Outcome measures identified within the National Headline Indicators which are relevant to the work of the SDPA.

**Table 5: National Headline Indicators**

Key Outcome	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	Comment
<b>Development Planning:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age of Strategic Development Plan (years and months).</li> </ul>	4 yr 0 mths (at 31 March 2018)	3 yr 0 mths (at 31 March 2017)	2 yr 0 mths (at 31 March 2016)	The Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan was approved by Scottish Ministers on 28 March 2014.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will the Strategic Development Plan be replaced by their 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary according to the current development plan scheme? (Y/N)</li> </ul>	N	Y	Y	The current Development Plan Scheme anticipates that the current Strategic Development Plan will be replaced in March 2020, which would be 1 year after its 5 <sup>th</sup> anniversary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has the expected date of submission of the plan to Scottish Ministers in the development plan scheme changed over the past year? (Y/N)</li> </ul>	Y	N	N	The expected date of submission of the next Proposed Strategic Development Plan to Scottish Ministers is March 2019.

Key Outcome	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were development plan scheme engagement / consultation commitments met during the year? (Y/N)</li> </ul>	N	N	Y	<p>It was anticipated that consultation on the Main Issues Report would take place during 2017, however publication of this document was delayed due to the timing of the Supreme Court case for the Strategic Transport Fund and work associated with the Scottish Government's review of the planning system.</p> <p>In March 2018 the Strategic Development Planning Authority wrote to Kevin Stewart MSP, the Minister for Local Government and Housing to update the Scottish Government of the delay to the review timetable, and to formally request that Scottish Ministers choose to use the "Default Powers" afforded to them under Section 23B of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and instruct the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority to continue to produce a Strategic Development Plan for the area.</p>



## 7. Official Statistics

- 7.1 For additional official statistics refer to Aberdeen City Planning Performance Framework and Aberdeenshire Planning Performance Framework

## 8. Workforce Information

- 8.1. At 31 March 2018, the SDPA Officer Team consisted of two members of staff – Acting Team Leader and Senior Planner. The Team propose to recruit another member of staff on a secondment basis from one of the partner Councils over the next year in order to assist with expected workload levels.
- 8.2. The Officer Team is based at Woodhill House, Aberdeenshire Council Headquarters with additional desk space available at Marischal College, Aberdeen City Council Headquarters. Aberdeenshire Council provides HR, payroll and financial support to the SDPA Officer Team.
- 8.3. The SDPA Project Board appointed the Acting Team Leader as acting from 1 March 2018. Decisions regarding staffing and the long term operating budget of the SDPA are under continuous review following the publication of the Planning (Scotland) Bill. Therefore, the current operating budget for 2018 - 2019 is limited to statutory functions and the future SDPA work programme is also under review.

Table 6: Workforce Information

Head of Planning Service	Tier											
	1	2	3	4								
				1								
	Managers No. Posts    Vacant		Main Grade Posts No. Posts    Vacant		Technician Posts No. Posts    Vacant		Office support/Clerical No. Posts    Vacant				Totals	
Development Planning			2								2	

Staffing profile	Number	Committees & site visits	No. per year
Under 30		SDPA	5
30-39	1	Full Council	0
40-49	1	Council Committees	0
50 and Over		Area Committees	0

Budgets	Budget	Costs		Income
		Direct	Indirect	
Planning Service				
Development Planning	£150k			£150k

*Note: More detailed information is available in the SDPA's unaudited accounts for 2017/18 which are available from the SDPA website - <http://www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk/>*

## 9. Planning Committee Information

Table 7: Strategic Development Planning Authority Committee Membership 31 March 2018

















					
Cllr M Boulton (Chair) Aberdeen City Council	Cllr J Cooke Aberdeen City Council	Cllr G Graham Aberdeen City Council	Cllr R Grant Aberdeen City Council	Cllr P Bell Aberdeen City Council	Cllr I Yuill Aberdeen City Council
					
Cllr J Cox (Vice Chair) Aberdeenshire Council	Cllr D Aitchison Aberdeenshire Council	Cllr P Johnston Aberdeenshire Council	Cllr J Latham Aberdeenshire Council	Cllr B Topping Aberdeenshire Council	Cllr S Wallace Aberdeenshire Council

Table 8: Rotational arrangements for Chair and Vice Chair of the Strategic Development Planning Authority

Date	Chair	Vice Chair
2016/17		
2017/18		
2018/19		

**Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority**  
**Woodhill House**  
**Westburn Road**  
**Aberdeen**  
**AB16 5GB**

**01467 539734**

[team@aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk](mailto:team@aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk)

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*Planning Authority*