



DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY (SPP) 2014

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise the panel of the publication and commencement of a revised Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 2014 by Scottish Government.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the panel notes the content of the new SPP.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The new SPP will be reflected in the policies of the forthcoming West Lothian Local Development Plan (WLDP). The SPP will also have some consequence for the way in which national planning policy is interpreted.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 1 - We make West Lothian an attractive place for doing business in Scotland. Outcome 2 - We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people. Outcome 10 - We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the services we need. Outcome 12 - We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations. Outcome 14 - We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Generally, the implementation of the SPP should not have any significant staffing and resource implications for the council.
VII Consideration at PDSP	The <i>draft</i> SPP has previously been reported to the Development and Transport PDSP on 13 June and 14 November 2013. The <i>draft</i> was also reported to the Council Executive on 25 June and 17 December 2013.
VIII Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 2104 is a statement of Scottish Government policy on how nationally important land use planning matters should be addressed across Scotland.

It is identified as a 'material consideration' and requires to be taken account of when preparing strategic and local development plans and when determining planning applications.

SPP 2014 is one of a series of over-arching policy and guidance documents in the Scottish planning system together with the National Planning Framework (NPF), the Architecture and Place Policy Statement, Designing Streets and various circulars and advice notes.

A review of SPP was initiated by Scottish Government in September 2012 with the stated aims of bringing the policy up-to-date, focusing it on sustainable economic growth and emphasising 'placemaking'.

At the same time, preparation of NPF3 was commenced, and by undertaking these tasks in tandem, it was the intention to enable connections to be made between where the government wanted to see development (NPF3) and how it wanted to see it delivered (SPP). It should be noted that a separate agenda item addresses the simultaneous publication of NPF3.

Following approval of a report to the Council Executive on 25 June and 17 December, the council submitted comments to the Scottish Government on the terms of the SPP. Having reflected on the responses, and taking into account the views of a range of stakeholders, the Scottish Government published SPP 2014 on 23 June 2014. SPP 2014 can be viewed at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/Policy>

SPP sets out national planning policies which reflect Scottish Ministers' priorities for operation of the planning system and for the development and use of land. The SPP promotes consistency in the application of policy across Scotland whilst allowing sufficient flexibility to reflect local circumstances.

It directly relates to the preparation of development plans and the design of development. It will also shape local planning policy in areas such as transport, town centres, energy and infrastructure while balancing sustainable economic growth with protection of the natural and built environment.

SPP is prefaced, as before, by an overview of the core values of the planning service, but these have been re-ordered, the language simplified and an additional 'core

principle' added which states that the planning service should play a key role in facilitating sustainable economic growth. Sustainability and economic growth are pervasive themes throughout the document.

Another distinctive feature of the new SPP is that it is more explicitly based around 'outcomes' and specifically, the Scottish Government's 16 national outcomes which set out how sustainable growth will be delivered. It concludes that planning can make a very important contribution to the delivery of the Single Outcome Agreements which have been negotiated between local and Scottish Government and that there should generally be greater integration between land use planning and community planning.

The SPP is structured and formatted in a significantly different way from the previous SPP with a clearer distinction between "Principal Policies" (Sustainability and Placemaking) and "Subject Policies" which have been grouped under four generic headings: A Successful, Sustainable Place, A Low Carbon Place, A Natural, Resilient Place and A Connected Place.

There is a common structure to each of these topics, essentially a statement of policy principles which Ministers expect to be adhered to, followed by links to key documents and advice and commentary on how delivery is to be achieved by Development Planning and Development Management. The Subject Policies also include a helpful 'hook' to the relevant part of the National Planning Framework.

There is a substantial amount of content in the new SPP which has transferred over from the previous SPP, or has just been updated, reformatted or moderately augmented. Where this is the case it has not been referred to.

There are, however, some more substantive revisions or additions and these can be summarised as relating to: sustainable economic growth; placemaking; spatial strategy; town centres; rural development; enabling the delivery of new homes; maintaining a 5-year land supply; affordable housing; supporting business and employment; valuing the natural environment; protecting 'wild land', enhancing green infrastructure; promoting sustainable and active travel; delivering heat and electricity; on-shore wind and managing flood risk and drainage. These matters are described in more detail Appendix 1.

Not all of the issues previously raised by the council in its consultation response have been included in the approved SPP. Appendix 2 identifies them and indicates whether they have been addressed or not.

E. CONCLUSION

The planning system has a vital role to play in delivering high-quality places for Scotland. Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) focuses plan making, planning decisions and development design on the Scottish Government's purpose of creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth. SPP will be a material consideration in determining planning applications.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

- ♦ The Planning etc, (Scotland) Act 2006
- ♦ Scottish Planning Policy (2010)
- ♦ West Lothian Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2023

Appendices/Attachments: Two

Appendix 1: Summary of the most significant changes introduced by SPP 2014

Appendix 2: Summary of other comments made by WLC on draft SPP

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