

8. SCOTISH PLANNING POLICY (SPP) 2014

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning and Economic Development advising of the publication and commencement of a revised Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 2014 by the Scottish Government.

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 2014 was a statement of Scottish Government policy on how nationally important land use planning matters should be addressed across Scotland. It would be identified as a material consideration and required to be taken into account when preparing strategic and local development plans and determining planning applications.

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

A review of the SPP was initiated by the Scottish Government in September 2012 with the stated aim of bringing the policy up-to-date, focusing on sustainable economic growth and emphasising “place-making”. At the same time preparation of the NPF3 had 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 it delivered (SPP).

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

In conclusion the planning system had a vital role to play in delivering high quality places for Scotland and the SPP would focus on plan making, planning decisions and development design with the Scottish Government’s purpose being of creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increasing sustainable economic growth.

It was recommended that the Panel note the content of the new SPP

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.