



## **MINUTE of MEETING of the SESplan JOINT COMMITTEE**

held in the Diamond Jubilee Room, City Chambers, Edinburgh

on Monday, 25th November, 2019 at 2.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor John Beare, Fife Council (Convener)  
Councillor Altany Craik, Fife Council  
Councillor Maureen Child, City of Edinburgh Council  
Councillor Neil Gardiner, City of Edinburgh Council  
Councillor Jim Goodfellow, East Lothian Council  
Councillor Norman Hampshire, East Lothian Council  
Councillor Russell Imrie, Midlothian Council  
Councillor Peter Smaill, Midlothian Council

**Apologies:** Councillor Stuart Bell, Scottish Borders Council  
Councillor Tom Miers, Scottish Borders Council  
Craig McCorriston, West Lothian Council  
Councillor Dom McGuire, West Lothian Council  
Councillor Cathy Muldoon, West Lothian Council

### **In**

**Attendance:** Iain McFarlane, City of Edinburgh Council  
Paul Lawrence, City of Edinburgh  
Robin Edgar, East Lothian Council  
Pam Ewen, Fife Council  
Peter Arnsdorf, Midlothian Council  
Ian Aikman, Scottish Borders Council  
Brian Frater, Scottish Borders Council  
Fiona McBrierty, West Lothian Council  
Wendy MacGregor, Fife Council (Clerk)

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## **1. ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ANY URGENT MATTERS**

The Convener confirmed that he was not aware of any urgent business and that the order of business was as per the agenda.

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**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2019**

The minute of meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 had been circulated.

**DECISION**

The Committee APPROVED the minute as a correct record subject to an amendment to include Councillor Altany Craik, Fife Council under apologies for absence.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

The Convener advised that matters arising in relation to the SESplan Budget and Regional Spatial Planning update, would be dealt with under items 6 and 8 on the agenda.

**5. SESPLAN OPERATING BUDGET: 2019/20 AND 2020/21 BUDGET**

There had been circulated a report by Pam Ewen, SESplan Board Chair presenting an update on the SESplan Operating Budget for 2019/2020 and setting out the SESplan Operating Budget for 2020/21 for Joint Committee approval.

**DECISION**

The Committee AGREED -

1. to note the updated forecast expenditure against the approved operating Budget for 2019/20 set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
2. to approve a rebate of £5,000 per each of the six constituent councils within the current 2019/20 financial year;
3. to approve the updated Operating Budget for 2020/2021 set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
4. to note that member contributions for financial year 2020/2021 were nil;
5. to note that member authorities would be required to ratify item 3 of the decision;
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6. to note that an Operating Budget for 2021/2022 would be brought to a meeting of the SESplan Joint Committee in late 2020; and
7. to request that the SESplan Board review the 2020/2021 Operating Budget costs for IT Hardware, Software and Maintenance and Audit/Professional Fees and to consider whether there is a more cost effective way of delivering the services.

## **6. LIAISON WITH SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**

Peter Arnsdorf gave a verbal update on discussions with officials from the Scottish Government.

### **DECISION**

The Committee AGREED -

1. to note that a meeting with Scottish Government officials would take place on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2019; and
2. to note that a briefing would be provided to the Committee after the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

## **7. REGIONAL SPATIAL PLANNING: UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

There had been circulated a report by Pam Ewen, SESplan Board Chair presenting an update on progress of areas of work being taken forward to inform future regional spatial planning.

### **DECISION**

The Committee AGREED –

1. to note the work areas being progressed;
2. to note that the six SESplan constituent Councils are in agreement to work in a regional grouping to progress an indicative regional spatial strategy through a Regional Growth Framework to inform NPF4, noting that the whole of Fife Council would be within this area;
3. that an update to the Committee members on emerging regional work, including transport and planning will be provided; and
4. that a briefing is arranged with Committee members in February 2020 on Edinburgh City Council's City Plan, and progress with the Regional Growth Framework.

**8. APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER AND VICE CONVENER 2020-2022**

There had been circulated a report by Fiona McBrierty, West Lothian Council, setting out a proposal for the appointment of the Convener and Vice-Convener of the SESplan Joint Committee over the two-year period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021 for agreement.

**DECISION**

The Committee agreed the appointment of Councillor Russell Imrie, Midlothian Council, as Convener, and Councillor Norman Hampshire, East Lothian, as Vice-Convener of the SESplan Joint Committee for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2021.

**9. JOINT COMMITTEE DATES 2020**

**DECISION**

The Committee agreed the following dates for meetings in 2020: Monday, 30th March; and Monday, 21st September.

**10. AOCB**

On behalf of the Committee members, Convener, Councillor Russell Imrie, Midlothian Council, conveyed his gratitude and appreciation to Councillor John Beare during his appointment as Joint Committee Convener and to Pam Ewen, Fife Council, as SESplan Board Chair for their work and excellent leadership skills over the period 2018/19.

Councillor John Beare, Fife Council, acknowledged that Brian Frater, Scottish Borders Council would be retiring from his position in 2020 and had been a member of the SESplan Joint Committee since its establishment. On behalf of the Committee, Councillor Beare wished Brian Frater well for his future retirement.

*The meeting concluded at 3.00 p.m.*