

## **EX125. Future Development Planning System**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Place Services which provided an update on significant changes to the system of development planning in Scotland, as introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, and sought approval for early actions to prepare the Council for the changes.

The changes to the development planning system would have a range of implications for the Council as Planning Authority, and it was important that the changes were anticipated and planned for.

The Draft NPF4 was the subject of consultation until 31 March 2022. While welcoming the ambition and intent of the document, there remained matters of concern particularly around the clarity and deliverability of the national policies.

The Council would be obliged to prepare a Regional Space Strategy and officers in Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Councils had begun work to prepare an indicative RSS for the Forth Valley area, to provide regional input to NPF4's emerging national spatial strategy, and to test the feasibility and benefits of preparing the formal RSS on a Forth Valley basis. There were a range of practical considerations to be considered in moving towards formal joint working on an RSS including governance arrangements and resourcing.

The Council adopted the Falkirk Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) in August 2020, and its delivery was ongoing. The Scottish Government expected planning authorities to have adopted new style LDPs under the amended procedures within five years of the development plan regulations coming into force. Consequently, work on LDP3 would have to commence soon. The first step in the process was to prepare a Development Plan Scheme (DPS), setting out the timescales for plan preparation and a participation statement.

Local Place Plans were an entirely new element being introduced to the planning system. There was still some uncertainty as to the extent to which communities would take up the opportunity, given likely issues around skills and resources.

### **Decision**

#### **The Executive:-**

- (1) noted the ongoing discussions with Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils exploring the potential to jointly prepare a Forth Valley Regional Spatial Strategy;**
- (2) noted the changes to procedures for the preparation of Local Development Plans and authorised officers to submit detailed comments in response to the current consultation on the draft development plan guidance and regulations;**

- (3) agreed that work be commenced to prepare and consult on a Development Plan Scheme, setting out timescales and a participation statement for Falkirk Development Plan 3 (LDP3);**
- (4) agreed that officers continued to raise awareness of Local Place Plans with communities and assess the resource implications for communities to help them prepare such plans, and**
- (5) requested that officers assess the resource implications of all the changes to the development planning system and report back to Executive on the implications.**