

AGENDA ITEM 8

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: CONSULTATIVE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING
GUIDANCE – TRAVEL PLANS**
Meeting: ECONOMIC STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Date: 29 November 2011
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A programme of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) notes is currently being brought forward on a variety of topics to augment the policies of the Development Plan. The role of SPG is to provide detailed advice on the implementation of Development Plan policies, which would not be appropriate in the Development Plan itself. The importance of SPG is emphasised in Scottish Planning Policy (2010). Travel Plans accord with Planning Advice Note 75 (PAN75) Planning for Transport.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The intention of the guidance is to advise the planning system to encourage development that supports modal shift from car-based travel to more sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. A Travel Plan would provide a package of measures aimed at supporting the reduction of car based trips and promoting sustainable transport to and from a site/development.

3. SUMMARY

- 3.1 A Travel Plan is required of developers who are proposing development that could have a significant impact on transport infrastructure in the Falkirk Council area. The attached draft guidance note outlines the requirements for developers to put together a Travel Plan that will provide a range of travel options to and from the development site.
- 3.3 The SPG is intended to support the aims and objectives of Falkirk Council's Local Transport Strategy, which supports development that allows people a reasonable choice of travel options as part of a safe, reliable, convenient, and accessible and sustainable transport system.
- 3.4 The SPG also supports Falkirk Council's Local Plan which requires developments of significant impact to produce Transport Assessments and Travel Plans that mitigate the unnecessary use of the car and favour other modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.

- 3.5 The intention of the guidance note is to guide developers through the Travel Plan process. The benefits of developing a Travel Plan include:
- Individuals: improved access to public transport, less stressful travel and a healthier lifestyle;
 - Community: less congestion and noise pollution, improved walking and cycling routes and improved levels of health and fitness through walking and cycling more;
 - Business: potential for reduced parking demand, reduced business travel costs, access to a wider range of transport options;
 - Schools: improved cycling and walking facilities, less congestion along school routes, improved health and fitness through active travel and educational opportunities in the form of adopting healthier travel habits at an early age.
- 3.6 The SPG also proposes that a developer, in partnership with Falkirk Council, regularly monitors the traffic impact of their development through annual travel surveys.

4. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The SPG does not constitute a “Plan, Programme or Strategy” as defined by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and therefore does not qualify for Strategic Environmental Assessment.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Subject to approval, the draft SPG on Travel Plans would be put out to consultation.

6. POLICY, PERSONNEL, LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy: The preparation of the SPG is supported by Falkirk Council’s Development Plan and Local Transport Strategy.
- 6.2 Financial: As this is designed to be an advisory guidance note it is not anticipated that there will be any significant financial implications for the council.
- 6.3 Legal: The SPG on Travel Plans would become a material consideration in the Development Management process. It is likely to be the case that there will be an increase in the number of Section 75 Obligations that will be negotiated by Legal Services.
- 6.4 Personnel: No significant impact.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the draft SPG on Travel Plans to be issued for consultation and a report brought back to the Policy and Resources Committee in due course advising on the outcomes of the consultation process.**

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pp Director of Development Services

Date: 21st November, 2011

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Note on Travel Plans
2. Scottish Planning Policy 2010 (Scottish Government)
3. Planning Advice Note 75 (Scottish Government)

Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers please contact Lynn Slavin on (01324 504818).