

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration**

**Planning Committee: 18 December 2013**

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**Subject: Draft Scottish Planning Policy: ‘Sustainability and Planning’ Consultation**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To seek approval of a response to the Scottish Government’s consultation on Scottish Planning Policy: ‘Sustainability and Planning’.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** It is recommended that the Committee endorse Appendix 1 as the Council’s response to the consultation.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1** Scottish Planning Policy sets out the Scottish Government’s policy on nationally important land use planning matters. The current version, published in 2010, consolidated a suite of 23 Scottish Planning Policy documents into one, without significantly revising significant policy content. A consultation draft of the revised Scottish Planning Policy document was published in April this year for consultation and the Council’s response to that document was endorsed at 14 August Planning Committee. Following the responses received to the revised SPP, the Government has subsequently issued a revised section on ‘Sustainability and Planning’ for further consultation. Responses are sought by 16 December 2013.

#### **4. Main Issues**

- 4.1** The consultation suggests merging the Sustainable Economic Growth and Sustainable Development sections of the previously published consultation draft Scottish Planning Policy into a single Sustainability and Planning section. It also suggests the introduction of an overarching policy presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development.
- 4.2** The Council’s recommended response to the consultation is set out in Appendix 1. In summary, the main points of the response are:
- The consolidation of the sections within the draft SPP on Sustainable Economic Growth and Sustainable Development is welcomed and the inclusion within the SPP of a presumption in favour of sustainable development is reasonable. However, the fact that the planning system is plan-led should be emphasised to make clear that the presumption will not apply where development is contrary to an up-to-date development plan. A

clearer expression of the relationship between sustainable development and sustainable economic development would also be beneficial when relating this document to individual proposals.

- The reference in the previously published consultation draft Scottish Planning Policy to significant weight being given to economic benefit of proposed development is replaced with reference to due weight being given to net economic benefit. This is in line with a change sought by the Council in its consultation response and is welcomed.

## **5. People Implications**

- 5.1** There are no personnel issues associated with this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1** There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

- 7.1** There are no known risks associated with this report.

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 8.1** An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken by the Scottish Government.

## **9. Consultation**

- 9.1** The views of other sections of the Council have been sought in the preparation of the Council's response.

## **10. Strategic Assessment**

- 10.1** Scottish Planning Policy covers a wide range of topics and is considered to contribute to all of the Council's strategic priorities and in particular towards:

- Economic growth and employability
- Local housing and sustainable infrastructure

**Richard Cairns**

**Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration**

**Date: 3 December 2013**

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**Person to Contact:** Pamela Clifford, Planning & Building Standards Manager,  
Housing, Environmental and Economic Development,  
Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank, G81 1TG  
01389 738656, [pamela.clifford@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:pamela.clifford@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

Alan Williamson, Team Leader – Forward Planning,  
Housing, Environmental and Economic Development  
Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank, G81 1TG  
01389 738539, [alan.williamson@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:alan.williamson@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

**Appendices:** Appendix 1: Council response to Draft Scottish Planning  
Policy: 'Sustainability and Planning' Consultation

**Background Papers:** Draft Scottish Planning Policy: 'Sustainability and  
Planning' Consultation

**Wards Affected:** All