



ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



NORTH EAST STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE: 31st August 2001
IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING
A PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider proposals for the implementation and monitoring of the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire structure plan 2001-2016

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 North East Scotland Together, the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan (NEST) was submitted to Scottish Ministers on 26th April 2001.
- 2.2 Implementation of the plan and its subsequent monitoring are part of the process of continuous plan making which the two authorities have adopted in relation to the structure plan.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 A discussion of the issues surrounding implementation and monitoring and a proposed response is appended to this report as appendix 1.
- 3.2 This paper highlights that implementation of the plan requires incorporation of policies in the two authorities respective local plans, direct action with partners and adoption in practice in development control decisions. It will be the role of the structure plan team to ensure that the drafting of local plan policies takes into account the ethos of the structure plan and ensuring that these plans “conform with the structure plan”; to provide policy advice to development control staff on the interpretation of policy; and to take forward the specific commitments within the plan.
- 3.3 In respect of monitoring it is proposed that monitoring takes place at two distinct levels; monitoring of strategic objectives and monitoring of the impact of individual policies. It is not intended to monitor all policies as part of this responsibility can be undertaken through the local plans.
- 3.4 The 9 strategic objectives of the plan will be monitored by the use of an indicator set, the contents of which will be the subject of consultation with the structure plan focus group to ensure acceptability and ownership. Monitoring of these indicators will only be reported on a relatively long cycle (i.e. 3-5 years) as it is unlikely that the indicators will exhibit much movement on a yearly cycle.
- 3.5 Three topic groups are proposed for the purposes of monitoring the policies; Economy and Transport; Housing and Community Services and Environment. In each case it will be the purpose of monitoring to assess change in the policy environment, identify development pressures and assess the application of the policies. Again the focus group will be used to confirm the monitoring regime appropriate for each policy group.
- 3.6 Reporting to the North East Strategic Planning committee will take the form of an annual monitoring report.
- 3.7 In the first instance it will be necessary to benchmark each topic to enable change to be identified. The report of survey and its addendum provides a useful starting point for this process but best use of will be made of existing information sources throughout the

monitoring process. In this way it is hoped to avoid the need to implement new data collection and its associated resource implications.

- 3.8 It is proposed to involve the structure plan partners in the identification of suitable indicators, the development of policy monitoring regimes and, as a starting point, the agreement of the overall structure and direction that is proposed by the appended paper for monitoring and implementation.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 An implementation and monitoring scheme is proposed which strengthens the partnerships forged during the plan preparation process and at the same time is realistic in terms of resources and avoids unnecessary duplication of effort.
- 4.2 It is proposed to report on structure plan performance to NESPC on an annual cycle with the caveat that not all issues will be presented each year. Further reports will be brought before the committee, which identify the details of the monitoring scheme developed with partners.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 I therefore recommend that the committee endorses this report as the basis for the development of a monitoring system and for consultation with the Councils' partners.

PETER COCKHEAD
Director of Planning and Strategic
Development
Aberdeen City Council

ERIC MELROSE
Director of Planning and Environmental
Services
Aberdeenshire Council