

## Infrastructure Delivery Group – Terms of Reference June 2018

Aim:

- **To promote and drive forward an infrastructure first approach to planning and development.**

Objectives:

- **To strengthen the relationship between infrastructure providers and the planning system.** This will be achieved in the first instance by establishing the remit of each of the infrastructure providers involved in the group, set out how they currently engage with the planning system and identify what they need going forward
- **To co-ordinate and align the contribution of infrastructure providers to development planning and delivery.** For example, the group will consider how infrastructure interests can be brought together, and opportunities for data sharing and joint engagement. The group may also explore existing initiatives to achieve more effective collaboration in infrastructure planning and delivery.
- **To encourage better coordination of development plan strategies and infrastructure capital investment plans and programmes.** This will help to ensure that development planning is better used to help prioritise future infrastructure spending and investment. The group will advise on how new style development plans and their delivery programmes can provide greater certainty and confidence for infrastructure providers. This could focus on, for example, approaches to site selection, ideas on programming and phasing, and methods for evidence gathering. It is essential that development plans better understand and reflect on infrastructure investment priorities to achieve an infrastructure first approach.
- **To establish a clearer picture of funding and financing options for infrastructure to support planning delivery.** The group could consider how planning obligations, city deals, infrastructure funds and finance models can together help to secure investment that fully supports regional priorities for growth. This in turn can be used to help support future improvement work focusing on development plan delivery programmes. As part of this, further development of proposals for an infrastructure levy and subsequent supporting work will be discussed with the group.
- **To support ongoing and future work with local government and the development industry to broker solutions and support delivery.** The group can explore how strategic issues relate to, and could help to inform, delivery at a local level.
- **To support the preparation of National Planning Framework 4.** It is anticipated that the group could provide valuable input on strategic infrastructure planning matters when work on NPF4 progresses.

Group Meetings:

- Meetings: target quarterly, depending on issues and progress reporting requirements;
- Subgroups may be created to explore specific issues and may meet separately from main group. This will be kept under review.

#### Membership Review:

- The membership of the group will be kept up under review to ensure key infrastructure stakeholders are engaged with.

#### Outputs:

- Meeting notes and supporting papers will be published on the Scottish Government's website.
- The activities of the group will also be reported to Scottish Ministers and the Infrastructure Investment Board as appropriate.

### *Places, People and Planning (January 2017)*

*The independent panel proposed that a national infrastructure agency or working group be set up to better co-ordinate infrastructure delivery. An enhanced National Planning Framework (NPF), which informs and is informed by, the Infrastructure Investment Plan, could play a key role in helping to prioritise future infrastructure spend.*

*Our view is that this is not the right time to create a new, additional infrastructure agency at a national level. This would take time to establish, would need significant extra resourcing and, rather than bringing them closer together, may further distance infrastructure planning from spatial planning. We recognise, however, that all infrastructure providers should be behind our shared commitment to sustainable growth and development.*

*Instead, to support our commitment to delivering 50,000 affordable homes this Parliamentary term and to address failings in the delivery of market housing, we propose establishing a national infrastructure and development delivery group, comprising appropriate representation from the Scottish Government and its agencies, public and private sector infrastructure providers and the Scottish Futures Trust. The group would:*

- Ensure that knowledge about the key areas for growth and future development, as set out in the National Planning Framework (NPF) and local development plans, is used to help prioritise our future infrastructure spending as reflected in the Infrastructure Investment Plan.*
- Work with local government and the development industry to broker solutions and support delivery at key housing sites across Scotland.*
- In the first instance, contribute to developing more detailed proposals for an infrastructure levy.*
- Consider how developer contributions could work with wider funding and finance solutions, including city deals, to secure investment that fully supports regional priorities for growth.*
- Encourage better co-ordination of development plan strategies and infrastructure capital investment plans and programmes. It is also essential that development plans better understand and reflect on infrastructure investment priorities in order to achieve an infrastructure first approach. The group could oversee and consider regional infrastructure audits, prepared by regional partnerships.*

### *Scottish Government Position Statement (June, 2017)*

*Effective infrastructure planning can ensure that places function properly and development improves, rather than detracts from quality of life. The consultation considered infrastructure governance, duties and responsibilities. We invited views on our proposal for a national working group to co-ordinate infrastructure and planning and also on whether our proposals for regional scale strategic planning would improve planning for infrastructure.*

*Scottish Ministers remain of the view that a new agency is not needed to improve the links between planning and infrastructure. We have also taken into account views that a working group may or may not lack influence or impetus....we are continuing to consider options for a national delivery group to support improved co-ordination of development and infrastructure issues. To inform this we will continue a dialogue with the current key agencies and private sector delivery partners including transport (rail), electricity, gas, heat, telecommunications and digital infrastructure providers. Over the coming months, this would provide a useful forum to discuss any potential changes to duties and powers to be considered for inclusion in the legislation.*