

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 25 February 2014

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services)

SUBJECT: Ratification of SESplan Budget 2014/15

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To request that Council ratifies the decision of the SESplan Joint Committee to approve SESplan's Operating Budget for 2014/15.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council agrees to ratify SESplan's Operating Budget for 2014/15.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 SESplan, the Strategic Development Plan Authority, is required to report its spend against agreed budgets to the SESplan Joint Committee. It is also required to present for the approval of the Joint Committee its budgets for future years.
- 3.2 The SESplan Joint Committee of 18 November 2013 approved the 2014/15 Operating Budget, subject to its being ratified by the six SESplan member authorities.
- 3.3 For the 2014/15 Operating Budget the fixed cost estimate is £291,088, the majority of which is the core team staff and accommodation. Efforts are ongoing to reduce accommodation costs, including the possible relocation of the core team to space within a member authority.
- 3.4 The core team comprises the SDP Manager, Lead Officer (0.8 fte), a Planner and a Temporary Planner. SESplan proposes that this team be maintained through 2014/15 to progress work on the second Strategic Development Plan.

- 3.5 The SESplan Joint Committee agreed that member contributions for 2014/15 should continue to be held at £49,000 per authority. Any reduction in member authority contributions will be reviewed against ongoing progress on delivery of a 5% reduction in the SESplan Operating Budget as from 2014/15.
- 3.6 The required SESplan contribution for 2014/15 is provided for within the Partnership and Services for Communities budget.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial - None
- 6.2 Personnel - None
- 6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Report by SDP Manager to SESplan Joint Committee 18 November 2013, *Finance*

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DATE	27/01/2014