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Claire McArthur  
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5 July 2018

Dear Claire

### **Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan**

Thank you for your letter of 20 March 2018 requesting that Scottish Ministers use their powers to direct your authority to continue to produce a strategic development plan for the area. My apologies for the delay in responding, these are unique circumstances and we have been giving them due consideration.

The Scottish Ministers hereby direct under Section 23B of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act, 1997, as amended, that the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan Authority (SDPA) compile a main issues report, prepare a proposed strategic development plan (SDP), and submit the SDP to Scottish Ministers.

The reasons for this direction are because the authority are in default of Section 10(8) of the above Act and they have not timeously done what is required in order to carry out their functions.

You will be aware that the Planning Bill is currently before the Scottish Parliament and that changes to the development plan system are proposed. Whilst scrutiny of the Bill is on-going, we would expect the preparation of the SDP to bear in mind the changes it proposes. There may be matters where early alignment would be particularly helpful – specifically our aim to move towards place-based plans that are infrastructure-led and enable delivery of housing, and also in relation to processes for the preparation of the next National Planning Framework. My officials would be happy to discuss these points with you as the direction of travel becomes clearer later this year.

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I am pleased to see the recent professional resource commitment made to progress the SDP and I would expect this to be maintained to ensure its delivery. Should you wish to discuss the direction further, please contact Carrie Thomson on [carrie.thomson@gov.scot](mailto:carrie.thomson@gov.scot) or 0131 244 7529.

Regards  
Aileen

**AILEEN CAMPBELL**

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