

Planning Committee

10.00am, Thursday 7 August 2014

Planning Committee Workshop and Awareness Raising Programme

Item number	7.3
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	

Executive summary

To build on existing knowledge and assist members to make decisions on development plans and proposals for the city, Planning Committee members have been supported by a workshop and awareness raising programme. The purpose of this report is to set out the arrangements for continuing the programme up to July 2015.

Links

Coalition pledges	P08, P17, P40
Council outcomes	CO7, CO8, CO16, CO19
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1, SO2, SO3, SO4

Planning Committee Workshop and Awareness Raising Programme

Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the workshop and awareness raising programme up to July 2015, as set out in this report.

Background

- 2.1 A member workshop and awareness raising programme has been in place for the Planning Committee for more than 10 years as a way of delivering culture change in planning in Edinburgh. The programme has helped to build awareness and understanding of planning issues and has improved relations with partner organisations and key stakeholders, including government agencies, local partners and the development sector.
- 2.2 The programme is an important part of supporting Committee members in their promotion of key economic development, social and environmental objectives through planning and decisions on planning proposals.
- 2.3 In the last year, four workshops have been held for Committee members. These have focused on the Local Development Plan, developer contributions and student accommodation. Additionally, four shorter awareness raising sessions have been held which have covered transport issues, planning conditions, the service improvement plan and windows in historic areas. Representatives of Transport Scotland and the University of Edinburgh have participated in these sessions.
- 2.4 The annual Planning Committee tour for 2014 has been arranged and will focus on street design issues. The tour was postponed from June until September 2014 due to the special Committee meeting that was organised to consider the Second Proposed Local Development Plan. Members of the Transport and Environment Committee have been invited to join the tour to share understanding of street design issues.

Main report

- 3.1 The next workshop and awareness raising programme is proposed to run from August 2014 to July 2015. The programme aims to build on existing knowledge

and develop members' understanding of new ways of working and priority issues.

- 3.2 The programme will continue to be based around two hour workshops during months when there is no Planning Committee meeting and shorter awareness raising sessions immediately before some Development Management Sub-Committee meetings. Full day Planning Committee tours are expected to be held in September 2014 and June 2015.
- 3.3 Members have indicated a preference for more interactive sessions which allow sufficient time for questioning and general discussion of issues that are raised. Although some themes for future sessions are identified below, it is important that the programme is flexible so that priority issues can be addressed when appropriate.
- 3.4 It is expected that future sessions will be required to address matters arising from the preparation of a second Strategic Development Plan (including housing need and demand) and the Local Development Plan.
- 3.5 In addition, members have suggested future sessions could cover student accommodation, adding value to development through the planning process, community engagement, and encouraging play through street design and public space.
- 3.6 Where appropriate, representatives from external organisations will be invited to contribute to the sessions.
- 3.7 The dates for the next series of events are listed in the appendix to this report. Members will be advised closer to the date of the session as to what specific topic will be covered.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Committee members feel confident and informed to make decisions relating to development planning and development proposals.

Financial impact

- 5.1 There are no new financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Provision for elected member training is contained in the Planning Service's revenue budget.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 There are no perceived risks associated with this report.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are no direct equalities impacts, but the proposed workshop and awareness raising programme provides an opportunity for elected members to explore equalities issues likely affected by planning decisions.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 This report has no adverse sustainability issues.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Themes for workshops and awareness raising sessions that have been suggested by members will be incorporated in to the programme.

Background reading/external references

None.

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Links

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Appendices	Appendix 1: Proposed dates for the Planning Committee workshop and awareness raising programme.
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Appendix 1 – Proposed dates for the Planning Committee workshop and awareness raising programme

August 2014 – July 2015

Awareness raising sessions

1 hour

- Wednesday 27 August 2014 9am
- Wednesday 8 October 2014 9am
- Wednesday 3 December 2014 9am
- Wednesday 11 February 2015 9am
- Wednesday 6 May 2015 9am

Committee workshops

2 hours

- Wednesday 20 August 2014 2pm - *SDP Spatial strategy + HNDA*
- Thursday 6 November 2014 10am
- Thursday 22 January 2015 10am
- Thursday 26 March 2015 10am

Committee tours

- Thursday 4 September 2014 9am-5pm – *Street design*
- Thursday 11 June 2015 9am-5pm