

Minutes

Planning Committee

10.00 am, Thursday, 11 August 2016

Present

Councillors Perry (Convener), Lunn (Vice-Convener), Bagshaw, Blacklock, Cairns, Child, Gardner, Heslop, Keil, McVey, Milligan, Mowat, and Ritchie.

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the Planning Committee of 19 May 2016 as a correct record.

2. Strategic Development Plan 2 Proposed Plan and Action Programme

SESPlan had prepared a Proposed Strategic Development Plan and Action Programme for Edinburgh and South East Scotland. The Strategic Development Plan was a statutory planning document which was prepared every five years and covered a twenty year period. It communicated strategic level and cross-boundary planning policy and applied national policy and guidance from the Scottish Government. The Action Programme set out the key strategic actions needed to deliver the vision of the Plan.

There is a requirement to review the SDP within four years of its approval. The second SESplan Main Issues Report was published on 21 July 2015. This provided the main opportunity for engagement. During a 10 week consultation period, SESplan received 245 responses. The engagement has informed the preparation of a Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan represents SESplan's settled view of the final content of the plan. The City of Edinburgh Council officers have been involved in its preparation as members of an Operational Group and Project Board.

Community planning and spatial planning should be closely aligned. Within the SESPlan area, efforts have been made to ensure that SDP2 is consistent with the Community Plans in the area. In Edinburgh, Community Planning is represented on an internal SDP coordination group along with representatives from key Council services.

The SESplan Joint Committee approved the Proposed Plan and Action Programme for publication at its meeting on 20 June 2016. Each member council had been invited to formally ratify this decision. This report recommended that Committee

endorses the Proposed Plan and Action Programme and referred this decision to full Council.

Decision

- 1) To support the decision by the SESplan Joint Committee at its meeting on 20 June 2016 to approve the Strategic Development Plan 2 Proposed Plan and Action Programme for publication for representations and refer it to full Council for ratification.
- 2) To note that minor editorial changes of a non-policy nature to SDP2 and the supporting documents were delegated to the SDP Manager in consultation with the Head of Planning and Transport, SESplan Project Board Chair and Joint Committee Convener.
- 3) To note those background documents to be published with the Proposed Plan.
- 4) To note the proposals for consultation on SDP2 and the supporting documents considered by the SESplan Joint Committee on the 20 June 2016.
- 5) Details of the membership of the Community Planning Group and meetings held to be circulated to members of the Planning Committee.
- 6) Details of the population expansion projections to be provided to Planning Committee members.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

3. Legacy Planning Applications - Update

An update was provide on the new procedure for dealing with legacy planning applications approved on 15 June 2015.

The new procedure put forward arrangements to reduce delays in concluding legal agreements before planning permission decision notices could be issued and so improve the Council's performance figures. Details were provided of progress in removing non-legal agreement cases from the system.

Decision

- 1) To note progress on dealing with legacy applications.
- 2) The Executive Director of Place to report to the Committee in two cycles on the legacy applications classified as awaiting further information with explanations for the delay in this being submitted.

(References – Planning Committee 15 June 2015 (item 7); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

4. Review of the Scottish Planning System – Progress Report and the Next Steps

The review of the Scottish planning system was continuing to make progress with a programme to deliver change which was emerging. The independent review panel had reported on its findings and made a series of detailed recommendations. Scottish Ministers had now responded to the panel's report and set out a number of immediate actions, the scope for future reforms and details of a proposed White Paper.

A summary was provided of the findings from the independent review panel, its recommendations and the Scottish Ministers' response and next steps. The written evidence to the panel from the Planning Authority was agreed by Planning Committee on 3 December 2015.

Decision

- 1) To note the outcomes of the independent panel's review.
- 2) To note the Scottish Ministers' response to the review and their recommendations for future reforms to the planning system in Scotland.
- 3) The Executive Director of Place to arrange a Committee Workshop for members to discuss the proposals in the White Paper on the review of the Planning System.
- 4) The Executive Director of Place to circulate the remit of the working groups to the Committee.

(References – Planning Committee 3 December 2015 (item 11); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

5. Open Space 2012, Edinburgh's Draft open Space Strategy for Consultation

Edinburgh's draft Open Space Strategy reported the following changes to open space between 2010 and 2015: access to good quality play areas and urban green space had improved; allotment capacity had increased and community growing had flourished; and the city's green network had benefitted from measures to improve walking, cycling and biodiversity.

The draft Strategy took a co-ordinated view of future open space needs for the period to 2021 to protect and expand the city's network of open spaces and create sustainable places. Details were provided of the key challenges to the strategy.

Decision

- 1) To approve 'Open Space 2021', Edinburgh's draft Open Space Strategy for consultation purposes (Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place).
- 2) To note the 2015 Open Space Audit schedules (Appendix 2 of the report).

- 3) To refer the draft Strategy to the Transport and Environment Committee for information.
- 4) The Executive Director of Place to circulate a link to the audit process to the Committee.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

6. Consultation on Airspace Change Programme

Approval was sought for a formal response to Edinburgh airport operator's consultation on planned changes to the Edinburgh's airspace flight paths.

Details were provided of the proposed use of more tightly defined airspace, modern technology and the expansion of the use of Edinburgh airport. The response identified issues for further consideration with regard to the noise impact on Edinburgh residents and the impacts on habitats and designated sites of national/international importance.

Decision

- 1) To approve Appendix 3 of the report by the Executive Director of Place as the response to the Airspace Change Programme consultation.
- 2) To refer the report to the Transport and Environment Committee for information.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

7. The Edinburgh Planning Concordat 2016

Approval was sought for the refreshed Edinburgh Planning Concordat.

The Edinburgh Planning Concordat was first agreed in 2010 between the Council and the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce as a way of working together when major development was proposed in the City. It was updated in 2013 to include community councils and the [Edinburgh Planning Concordat 2013](#) had been reviewed and refreshed in conjunction with the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils.

The aim of the refreshed Concordat was to simplify it and make it easier for developers to use when major development was proposed in the City. Community Councils could also use it as a tool to engage with these developers and reach consensus on development in their area.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Edinburgh Planning Concordat 2016.
- 2) To note that the Planning Concordat Engagement Fund was closed.
- 3) To refer the report to the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

8. Old Town Conservation Area – Review of Conservation Area Character Appraisal

Approval was sought of the revised Old Town Conservation Area Character Appraisal, in draft, for consultation. This had been developed in the new style of appraisal. The content had been updated to reflect changing issues in the area, and the community's views and concerns. Details were provided of the way in which the consultation would be conducted.

Decision

- 1) To approve the attached revised Old Town Conservation Area Character Appraisal, in draft, for consultation.
- 2) The Executive Director of Place to circulate the figures for the population growth in the Old Town to the Committee.

(References – Planning Committee 3 October 2013 (item 7); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)