

Planning Committee

10.00 am, Thursday, 17 August 2017

Present

Councillors Ritchie (Convener), Booth, Ian Campbell, Child, Dixon, Graczyk, Griffiths, Mitchell, Mowat, Osler, and Staniforth.

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Planning Committee of 30 March 2017 as a correct record.

2. Strategic Development Plan 2 and SESplan Operating Budget 2017-18

Details were provided on the current status of Strategic Development Plan 2 (SDP2) which had been submitted to Scottish Ministers for examination.

The SESplan Joint Committee approved the SESplan Operating Budget 2017/18 on 13 March 2017. SESplan financial rules require that this decision is ratified by member authorities.

The SESplan Joint Committee agreed on the 26 June 2017 to prepare a response to the current call for evidence on the National Transport Strategy Review.

Member authority budget contributions are due for payment by the end of April each year and the Committee was requested to note the action taken by the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Convenor of the Planning Committee in accordance with paragraph 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions to authorise payment of £44,000 as the Council's contribution for the financial year 2017-18.

Decision

1. To note that SESplan's Proposed Strategic Development Plan 2 has been submitted without modifications to Scottish Ministers for examination;
2. To note the submission by SESplan Joint Committee to the call for evidence on the National Transport Strategy Review;
3. To ratify the decision of the SESplan Joint Committee to approve the SESplan Operating Budget 2017/18 detailed in appendix 1 to the report by the Executive

Director of Place); and

4. To note the action by the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Convener of the Planning Committee in accordance with paragraph 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions to authorise payment of £44,000 as the Council's contribution for the financial year 2017-18
5. To refer the report the Housing and Economy Committee for information.

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

3. Scottish Government Review of the Planning System – update and position statement

An update on progress and a summary of the Scottish Government's position statement on the review of the Scottish Planning system was provided.

Decision

1. To note the progress to date and the summary of the position statement on the Scottish Government review of the Planning system.
2. The Convener to write to Scottish Ministers urging them to explore a community right of appeal within the Scottish planning system, as supported by the City of Edinburgh Council's commitment to delivering reform in this regard
3. The Executive Director of Place to submit a report to the next meeting of the Planning Committee on proposals for expanding Community Engagement in the Planning System, including the use of technology and the involvement of young people

(References – Planning Committee 30 March 2017 (item 6); report by the by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

4. Edinburgh Planning Guidance: Review of Guidance for Householders

The Council's non-statutory Guidance for Householders interprets Policy Des12 of the Edinburgh Local Development Plan and gives detailed advice on when proposals to alter or extend buildings are likely to be acceptable.

The guidance was originally approved in 2012 and is reviewed regularly to ensure it is up to-date and reflects the Council's objectives and practice.

Details of the proposed changes to the guidance were provided

Motion

1. To amend page 15 of the guidance to read “Sheds for cycle storage are subject to the same principles as sheds for any other purpose. The Council has worked with Spokes to produce a fact sheet on the storage of bikes for tenement and flat dwellers, and in gardens.”
2. Otherwise to note the findings of the consultation on the draft Guidance for Householders and approve the finalised guidance.
 - moved by Councillor Ritchie, seconded by Councillor Child.

Amendment

To note the findings of the consultation on the draft Guidance for Householders and approves the finalised guidance, with the addition of the following wording after “and the surrounding area” in the third bullet point under “Garages and outbuildings” on page 15 of the guidance: “(though for small sheds and containers in front gardens, see the guidance in the Spokes factsheet, below)”.

- moved by Councillor Booth, seconded by Councillor Staniforth.

Voting

For the motion - 9 votes

(Councillors Ian Campbell, Child, Dixon, Graczyk, Griffiths, Mitchell Mowat, Osler and Ritchie).

For the amendment - 2 votes.

(Councillors Booth and Straniforth)

Decision

To approve the motion

(References – Planning Committee 8 December 2016 (item 5); report by the by the Executive Director of Place; submitted.)

5. Planning Committee Training and Awareness Raising Programme

Committee was asked to approve the workshop and awareness raising programme over the next twelve months

Decision

To agrees the priorities for training and awareness raising over the next 12 months and the indicative programme of workshops.

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

6. Planning and Building Standards Customer Engagement Strategy and Building Standards Improvement Plan

Details were provided on progress in the implementation of the Planning and Building Standards Customer Engagement Strategy and the Building Standards Improvement Plan on performance.

The Planning and Building Standards Customer Engagement Strategy aims to implement the Council's Channel Shift policy, encouraging customers to self-serve online. It is recognised that this culture change can be difficult to implement and a 'one size fits all' does not always work. Details were provided on progress so far and the potential for better customer engagement.

Following an inspection in February 2017, the Building Standards Division of the Scottish Government identified a number of recommended actions to bring the level of service in Edinburgh up to the standards expected for a verifier under the Buildings (Scotland) Act 2003. Details of the Improvement Plan being implemented to address the recommendations were provided.

Decision

1. To note the progress with the Customer Engagement Strategy and other actions to improve customer engagement; and
2. To note the outcomes from the Scottish Government's Building Standards Division inspection report and the proposed Improvement Plan to address the recommended actions from this.
3. The Executive Director of place to submit an update report in six months

(References – Planning Committee 3 December 2015 (item 6), 8 December 2016 (item 7), 2 March 2017 (item 7); report by the by the Executive Director of Place; submitted.)

7. Finalised New Town Conservation Area Character Appraisal

Approval was sought for the finalised version of the New Town Conservation Area Character Appraisal.

Decision

To approve the finalised version of the New Town Conservation Area Character Appraisal.

(References – Planning Committee, 2 March 2017 (item 10); report by the by the Executive Director of Place; submitted.)