

# Planning Committee

2.00pm, Wednesday, 22 August 2018

## Training and Awareness Raising Programme

Item number	7.3
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All
Council Commitments	<a href="#">10-15</a>

### Executive Summary

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The purpose of this report is to propose a training and awareness programme for elected members involved in Planning policy and development management decision making, to build on the training events and workshops in 2017/18.

This programme is an important part of supporting Committee members in their promotion of key economic development, social and environmental objectives set by the Council and how they relate to the Development Plan and the Council's planning decisions.

## Training and Awareness Raising Programme

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees the priorities for training and awareness raising over the next 12 months and the indicative programme of workshops.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 A member training and awareness raising programme has been in place for the Planning Committee over the last three administrative terms of the Council. In recent years, the programme has been broadened to support a wider group of elected members who have an interest in, or requirement to be briefed on, relevant Planning issues.
- 2.2 The recent change in committee remits has returned responsibility for development plan preparation to Planning Committee, but it is recognised that there would be merit in continuing the recent joint events with members of the Housing and Economy Committee to broaden understanding of the relationship between planning strategy and other corporate strategies. There could be opportunities in the coming year to include members of the Transport and Environment Committee in the same way.
- 2.3 The programme provides a helpful way to build awareness and understanding of planning issues for Edinburgh and the wider city region. Similarly the programme has facilitated improved awareness and mutual understanding with partner organisations and key stakeholders, including government agencies, local partners and the development sector.
- 2.4 Over the last year, the early focus was on new member training. Over two days, Planning Committee members explored and discussed topics such as what makes a good place, development pressures, the role of the Local Development Plan (LDP) and decision making processes on planning applications. The programme of training has been ongoing throughout the year with subsequent sessions on appeals and reviews, estates management, development economics and community empowerment.
- 2.5 Placemaking has been a central theme of the training and awareness programme and the annual Planning Committee tour allows members to assess how planning

decisions lead to development on the ground and whether higher quality places and buildings are being created.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 The proposed specialist workshop and awareness raising programme builds on the induction training and workshops in the previous year and covers the period from September 2018 to June 2019. The programme will be based around two hour interactive workshops, with a lead speaker(s). Representatives from partner organisations and the development sector will be invited to contribute to the sessions. Six dates have been added to the Council diary for Wednesday afternoons as follows:
- 19 September 2018;
  - 31 October 2018;
  - 28 November 2018;
  - 30 January 2019;
  - 13 March 2019; and
  - 12 June 2019 (full day Committee Tour).
- 3.2 Proposed themes for the 2018-19 programme
- 3.2.1 Alignment of place making strategies
- 3.2.1.1 Challenges of city growth;
  - 3.2.1.2 City Vision 2050 and plan stages to delivery;
  - 3.2.1.3 City development plan 2020-30 emerging issues; and
  - 3.2.1.4 Delivery of supporting infrastructure.
- 3.2.2 Reform of the Scottish Planning system
- 3.2.2.1 Planning Bill proposals;
  - 3.2.2.2 Regional partnerships to deliver strategies for land use and transport;
  - 3.2.2.3 Community engagement through proposed local place plans; and
  - 3.2.2.4 Decision making and rights of appeal.
- 3.2.3 Placemaking and Quality of New Development
- 3.2.3.1 Improving the Quality of Design/ Place Standard Tool;
  - 3.2.3.2 Sustainability;
  - 3.2.3.3 Built Heritage; and
  - 3.2.3.4 Urban Realm.

### 3.2.4 Improvements in Planning practice

3.2.4.1 Review of Development Management Subcommittee practices including presentations, report format and supporting information;

3.2.4.2 Planning processes – use of conditions/reasons for refusal/appeals; and

3.2.4.3 Development economics influence on shaping proposals; and

3.2.4.4 Customer Service Improvements

## 4. Measures of success

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4.1 Elected members will feel confident and informed to make decisions relating to planning policy and development proposals

## 5. Financial impact

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

## 6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

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6.1 There are no perceived risks associated with this report.

## 7. Equalities impact

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7.1 There are positive impacts on equalities as the up-skilling of Planning Committee members can help to promote understanding which can foster good relations and lead to good placemaking thereby reducing issues of poverty and health inequality.

7.2 There are no negative impacts as a result of this report.

## 8. Sustainability impact

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8.1 The proposals in this report will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because it will highlight the importance of creating good places and a greater understanding of the planning system can have a positive impact on achieving sustainable, economic development.

## 9. Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 The subject areas for further awareness training have been suggested by members and officers.

## 10. Background reading/external references

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None

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## 11. Appendices

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None