

Item 4.1 - Minutes

Planning Committee

2.00pm, Wednesday 12 December 2018

Present

Councillors Gardiner (Convener), Child (Vice-Convener), Booth, Dixon, Gordon, Griffiths, McLellan, Mitchell, Mowat, Osler and Staniforth.

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Planning Committee of the 3 October 2018 as a correct record.

2. East Lothian Local Development Plan

At its meeting of 7 June 2018, the Housing and Economy Committee instructed officers to liaise with East Lothian Council officers that were involved in East Lothian's Local Development Plan and subsequent house building efforts and present a report to the Planning Committee on the areas of best practice that they felt could be replicated within the City of Edinburgh Council.

Details were provided of the approach taken by East Lothian Council in the preparation of its local development plan and house building efforts, and areas of lead practice with relevance for Edinburgh.

Decision

To note the description of East Lothian Council's Local Development Plan preparation and the examples of lead practice with relevance for Edinburgh.

(References – Planning Committee, 22 August 2018 (item 8); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

3. Powderhall Place Brief

Approval was sought for a place brief to guide housing-led mixed use development on land at Powderhall which included the site of the former waste transfer station and adjacent bowling greens and listed stables block.

Motion

To approve the place brief for the site of the former waste transfer station, stables block and bowling greens at Powderhall as non-statutory planning guidance.

- Moved by Councillor Gardiner, seconded by Councillor Child

Amendment

To approve the place brief for the site of the former waste transfer station, stables block and bowling greens at Powderhall as non-statutory planning guidance, and that there should be no net loss in open space from this area.

- Moved by Councillor Booth, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

Voting

For the motion - 9 votes

For the amendment - 2 votes

(For the motion - Councillors Child, Dixon, Gardiner, Gordon, Griffiths, McLennan, Mitchell, Mowat and Osler

For the amendment - Councillors Booth and Staniforth.)

Decision

To approve the brief for the site of the former waste transfer station, stables block and bowling greens at Powderhall as non-statutory planning guidance.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee, 14 August 2018 (item 7); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

4. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure: Business Case – referral from the Transport and Environment Committee

On 4 October 2018 the Transport and Environment Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Place which set out the business case for electric vehicle infrastructure. The report was referred to the Planning Committee to consider how electric vehicle uptake could be better supported through the Council's Planning regime.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To agree that officers would take comments made by members into consideration in relation to car parking standards for electric vehicles and e-cargo bikes when preparing the report on the Edinburgh Design Guidance.
- 3) To agree that the Convener would liaise with the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee to discuss ensuring that a joined-up approach was taken whereby planning and transport officers considered both technical and planning issues when deciding where electric charging points would be placed.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee, 4 October 2018 (item 7); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

5. Planning and Building Standards Improvement Plan

Approval was sought for the Planning Improvement Plan 2018-2021 and an update was provided on the progress on actions related to the Building Standards Improvement Plan 2018-2018.

Motion

- 1) To approve the Planning Improvement Plan 2018-2021.
- 2) To note the progress update on actions related to the Building Standards Improvement Plan 2018-2021.
 - moved by Councillor Gardiner, seconded by Councillor Child

Amendment

- 1) To approve the Planning Improvement Plan 2018-2021, subject to the annual indicators required by the Scottish Government to be reported to Committee on a six-monthly basis; and to bring in external advice to review the Planning Improvement Plan to consider whether the data being collected and actions proposed were sufficient to drive the required improvement. The outcome of the engagement would be reported to Committee in 2 cycles.
- 2) To note the progress update on actions related to the Building Standards Improvement Plan 2018-2021.
 - moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Mitchell

In terms of Standing Order 21(11), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Planning Improvement Plan 2018-2021, subject to the annual indicators required by the Scottish Government to be reported to Committee on a six-monthly basis; and to bring in external advice to review the Planning Improvement Plan to consider whether the data being collected and actions proposed were sufficient to drive the required improvement. The outcome of the engagement would be reported to Committee in 2 cycles.
- 2) To note the progress update in actions related to the Building Standards Improvement Plan 2018-2021.
- 3) To agree that statistics would be provided in future reports on the time taken to process planning applications from the receipt of the application to the point warrants were granted.

(References – Planning Committee, 22 August 2018 (item 5); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

6. Planning Schemes of Delegation

Committee considered a report that provided details of an investigation of the circumstances that led to a delegated decision to approve a planning application at a major sporting venue. Procedures were being tightened to reduce risk and to deliver quality assurance.

While the planning decision in this case remained as granted, it was recognised that a process was not in place which would have escalated the application to more senior Planning Officers for a second opinion.

Decision

- 1) To agree to the proposed changes to procedures specified in paragraphs 3.24 – 3.28 of the report to reduce risk and deliver quality assurance.
- 2) To note, in relation to the planning application for an additional rugby stadium at Murrayfield, the apology to interested parties from the Executive Director of Place in relation to the lack of a process which would have escalated the application to more senior Planning Officers for a second opinion on whether to refer the application to the Development Management Sub-Committee for determination.

(References – Act of Council (No 8), 23 August 2018; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

Declaration of Interest

Councillor McLellan declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a former season ticket holder at Edinburgh Rugby.

7. Implementing the Programme for the Capital: Coalition Commitments six monthly progress update

Details were provided of the progress that had been made against the seven coalition commitments from the Council's 52 commitments that the Planning Committee had responsibility for.

Motion

- 1) To note the progress against the seven coalition commitments detailed in the report.
- 2) To note that the coalition commitments formed part of the wider Council Performance Framework, which included corporate performance indicators that covered corporate performance and council service delivery.
- 3) To note that under Commitment 13 it was important to see a full audit trail of monies in and monies out and that it was unacceptable to report that another Committee monitored spend. Both Committees should have oversight of the resources accrued at their disbursement.
- moved by Councillor Gardiner, seconded by Councillor Child

Amendment

- 1) To note the progress against the seven coalition commitments detailed in the report.
- 2) To note that the coalition commitments formed part of the wider Council Performance Framework, which included corporate performance indicators that covered corporate performance and council service delivery.
- 3) To note that under Commitment 13 it was important to see a full audit trail of

monies in and monies out and that it was unacceptable to report that another Committee monitored spend. Both Committees should have oversight of the resources accrued at their disbursal.

- 4) To note with concern the receipt of the letter from the Deputy Chief Planning Officer appointing a Reporter to scrutinise the robustness of the Supplementary Guidance on Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Delivery; that this was a highly unusual situation; the prohibition on adopting the Supplementary Guidance before the 22 February 2019, and called for a report setting out then implications on this for the delivery of the Local Plan.
 - moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor McLellan

Voting

For the motion - 5 votes

For the amendment - 6 votes

(For the motion - Councillors Child, Dixon, Gardiner, Gordon and Griffiths.

For the amendment - Councillors Booth, McLennan, Mitchell, Mowat and Osler and Staniforth.)

Decision

- 1) To note the progress against the seven coalition commitments detailed in the report.
- 2) To note that the coalition commitments formed part of the wider Council Performance Framework, which included corporate performance indicators that covered corporate performance and council service delivery.
- 3) To note that under Commitment 13 it was important to see a full audit trail of monies in and monies out and that it was unacceptable to report that another Committee monitored spend. Both Committees should have oversight of the resources accrued at their disbursal.
- 4) To note with concern the receipt of the letter from the Deputy Chief Planning Officer appointing a Reporter to scrutinise the robustness of the Supplementary Guidance on Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Delivery; that this was a highly unusual situation; the prohibition on adopting the Supplementary Guidance before the 22 February 2019, and called for a report setting out then implications on this for the delivery of the Local Plan.

(References – Planning Committee, 30 May 2018 (item 7); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

8. SESplan Operating Budget 2019/2020

Approval was sought to ratify the Operating Budget of SESplan for 2019/2020, which was approved by the SESplan Joint Committee. SESplan was the body responsible for preparing the Strategic Development Plan.

The operating costs of £108,100 would be met using SESplan reserves and there would be no contributions required from member authorities.

Decision

- 1) To agree to ratify the decision of the SESplan Joint Committee to approve the 2019/20 SESplan Operating Budget detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.
- 2) To note the contributions for 2019/2020 would be nil.
- 3) To note that contributions might be required in future years.

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

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Child and Gardiner declared non-financial interests in the above item as Board members of SESPlan.

9. Motion by Councillor Booth – Cutting Climate Change Emission's in the City Plan 2030

The Convener ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Committee to give early consideration to this matter.

The following motion by Councillor Booth was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

“Committee

- 1) Notes the recent publication of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) ‘Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5C’, which found that limiting global warming to 1.5C was still possible but required rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented change in all aspects of society;
- 2) Notes that under section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, “a public body must, in exercising its functions, act in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of the targets [set out in the Act]”;
- 3) Notes that the Scottish Government recently introduced the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill, which set emissions reduction targets of 66% by 2030, 70% by 2040 and 90% by 2050, though some climate scientists and commentators called for more ambitious targets;
- 4) Therefore committee agreed that the forthcoming City Plan 2030 should set out policies and proposals for achieving significant reductions in climate change emissions in line with nationally and council-agreed targets; and the Choices Report (CR) should consult on how those emissions reductions should be achieved.”

- moved by Councillor Booth, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

Decision

To approve the terms of the motion by Councillor Booth, as adjusted.