

Planning Committee

2.00pm, Wednesday, 19 May 2021

Coronavirus Measures and Publication of Weekly Lists and Posting of Site Notices

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended Committee notes the decision:
 - 1.1.1 Taken by the Chief Planning Officer in consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener to extend the period during which weekly lists are not published in libraries and offices to 30 September 2021; and
 - 1.1.2 To resume the physical posting of site notices.

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Report

Coronavirus Measures and Publication of Weekly Lists and Posting of Site Notices

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Council published its weekly list of applications in libraries, Hub buildings and its principal office at Waverley Court. These buildings were closed to the public as a result of the Coronavirus Emergency
- 2.2 Planning Committee agreed on [2 September 2020](#) that weekly lists would continue to not be published in libraries and offices until 31 December 2020. It also agreed that if the Chief Planning Officer considers that these measures need to continue beyond that date, he would take a decision to do so following consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener of the Planning Committee and report to Committee on that decision thereafter.
- 2.3 The arrangements for publications need to be extended as libraries and offices will remain closed due to continuing Coronavirus measures.
- 2.4 Following consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener, the Chief Planning Officer has taken the decision to extend these measures to 30 September 2021.
- 2.5 Following the Scottish Government's decision to change its advice from "Stay at Home" to "Stay Local" and as a result of the reduced risks to public health, the Chief Planning Officer has taken a decision to resume the physical posting of site notices.
- 2.6 This report asks Committee to note these decisions.

3. Background

- 3.1 Under the Planning Acts, the Council published its weekly list of applications in libraries, Hub buildings and its principal office at Waverley Court. At these buildings it allowed the public to view the plans for applications via computers. These buildings were closed to the public as a result of the Coronavirus Emergency.
- 3.2 Under these Acts, the Council also posted site notices for some types of applications.
- 3.3 Paragraph 10(2) of Schedule 6 to the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 removes the duty requiring public authorities to physically publish or publicise documents or

make documents available for physical inspection where they consider that doing so may give rise to a significant risk of transmission of coronavirus.

- 3.4 As a result of Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 libraries in Edinburgh remain closed to members of the public and public buildings can only be opened for limited reasons.
- 3.5 Planning Committee agreed on [2 September 2020](#) that weekly lists would continue to not be published in libraries and offices until 31 December 2020. It also agreed the Chief Planning Officer could extend these arrangements beyond that date if necessary and following consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener of the Planning Committee. In January, following consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener the Chief Planning Officer took the decision to extend the arrangements to 31 March 2020.
- 3.6 On 2 April 2021, as a result of reduced concern about the transmission of coronavirus, the Scottish Government changed its “Stay at Home” advice to “Stay Local”.

4. Main Report

- 4.1 Due to the continued coronavirus emergency, it is not possible to publish weekly lists in libraries or Council offices.
- 4.2 Following consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener of the Planning Committee, the Chief Planning Officer took the decision to continue not to publish weekly lists in libraries and offices until 30 September 2021.
- 4.3 This date is the same as the date in which the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 is in force in relation to the publication and making of documents available for physical inspection.
- 4.4 Weekly lists will continue to be published on the Council's [website](#).
- 4.5 Following the Scottish Government's decision to change its advice from “Stay at Home” to “Stay Local” and as a result of the reduced risks to public health and to the health of staff, the Chief Planning Officer has taken a decision to resume the physical posting of site notices.
- 4.6 Committee is asked to the above decisions.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The measures set out in this report will be kept under review by the Chief Planning Officer. If it is necessary to further extend the arrangements for non-publication of weekly lists in libraries and offices, he will consult with the Convener and Vice Convener of the Planning Committee before making any decision.

6. Financial impact

6.1 There is no financial impact arising from this report.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The contents and recommendations neither contribute to, nor detract from, the delivery of the three Public Sector Equality Duties.
- 7.2 The contents and recommendations described in the report do not deliver any outcomes relating to the ten areas of rights, nor do they enhance or infringe them.
- 7.3 There is no environmental impact arising from the contents of this report.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Report to Planning Committee of 2 September 2020 on [Changes to Publication Arrangements for Applications during Coronavirus Emergency](#)
- 8.2 [Coronavirus \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#)
- 8.3 [Town and Country Planning \(Scotland\) Act 1997](#)
- 8.4 [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions and Requirements\) \(Local Levels\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#)
- 8.5 [Planning \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) \(Scotland\) Act 1997](#)
- 8.6 [Town and Country Planning \(Development Management Procedure\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2013](#)
- 8.7 [Town and Country Planning \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 1987](#)

9. Appendices

9.1 None.