

Minutes

Planning Committee

2.00pm, Wednesday 15 May 2019

Present

Councillors Gardiner (Convener), Booth, Cameron (substituting for Councillor Child), Dixon, Gordon, Griffiths, Mitchell, Mowat, Osler and Staniforth.

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Planning Committee of the 27 February 2019 as a correct record.

2. Business Bulletin

The Business Bulletin of the 15 May 2019 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, submitted.)

3. Western General Hospital Place Brief

Approval was sought for a Place Brief to guide clinical-related development at Western General Hospital. It had been prepared by the Planning Service in collaboration with NHS Lothian and had involved extensive engagement with the local community and other stakeholders.

Decision

To approve the Place Brief for the Western General Hospital site as non-statutory planning guidance.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Gardiner declared a financial interest in the above item as an employee of NHS National Services Scotland.

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

4. Planning Improvement Plan – Progress Update

An update was provided on the progress made on the Council's Planning Improvement Plan 2018/21.

Decision

To note the progress being made on the implementation of the Planning

Improvement Plan.

(References – Planning Committee, 27 February 2019 (item 5); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

5. Changes to the pre-application advice service and Edinburgh Planning Concordat

Details were provided of proposed changes to the pre-application advice service the Council provided to customers in advance of their making a planning application. In response to feedback from consultation with stakeholders, several reforms to deliver an improved service were proposed. To help deliver the improved service, it was proposed to introduce charges set to cover the costs of providing pre-application advice. The report also proposed changes to the Edinburgh Planning Concordat.

Motion

- 1) To agree the proposed changes to the Council's pre-application advice service and the proposed charges for providing pre-application advice be implemented from 1 July 2019.
- 2) To agree that a follow-up report be brought to Planning Committee within six months of the implementation date.
- 3) To agree to consult with the Edinburgh Development Forum and Civic Forum on the proposed changes to the Edinburgh concordat and to report back to Committee prior to agreeing any changes.
 - Moved by Councillor Gardiner, seconded by Councillor Griffiths

Amendment

- 1) To agree the changes to the PPA but to reject the introduction of a charging regime until the agreed changes had been embedded and improvement was demonstrated via the Planning Improvement Plan.
- 2) To agree to consult with the Edinburgh Development Forum and Civic Forum on the proposed changes to the Edinburgh concordat and to report back to Committee prior to agreeing any changes.
- 3) To agree to bring back a report that detailed how the £100,000 savings required would be met.

Voting

For the motion - 7 votes

For the amendment - 4 votes

(For the motion - Councillors Cameron, Dixon, Gardiner, Gordon, Griffiths, Osler and Staniforth.)

For the amendment – Councillors McLellan, Mitchell, Mowat and Osler.)

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

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6. Funding Third Sector Delivery Partners: Edinburgh World Heritage and Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust

Committee were advised that a report was presented to Committee in October 2018 that requested approval to change the funding basis for EWH and ELGT from annual grants to three-year service level agreements. Approval was sought to enter into those service level agreements with both organisations, for financial year 2019/20. Similar amounts would be put forward for inclusion in the Council budgets for subsequent years.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Service Level Agreements for 2019-22 with Edinburgh World Heritage and Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust for the services and activities detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report, subject to funds being available in the Council budget.
- 2) To approve the sums of £46,000 for Edinburgh World Heritage and £25,833 for Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust for 2019/20.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Gardiner declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Board member of Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust.

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

7. Internal Audit Quarterly Update report: 26 November 2018 to 29 March 2019 – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on 7 May 2019 considered the Internal Audit Quarterly Update Report: 26 November 2018 to 29 March 2019, which detailed progress with the 2018/19 Internal Audit Plan and the outcomes of the completed audits. The report was referred to the Planning Committee for review and scrutiny.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To agree that progress on developer contributions was reported to each Planning Committee, 5 times a year in the Business Bulletin, with a full report on planning performance, to include this aspect, on an annual basis, with the first full report to come forward to the December 2019 Planning Committee as part of the Performance update in the Planning Improvement Plan progress report.

(Reference – report by the Head of Strategy and Communications, submitted.)