Planning Committee

2.00pm, Wednesday, 7 August 2019

Training and Awareness Raising Programme

Executive/routine

Wards All Council Commitments 10-15

1. Recommendations

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

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Report

Training and Awareness Raising Programme

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The reports sets out the proposed themes and dates for the training and awareness programme for Planning Committee members, and where relevant, members from other Council committees.

3. Background

- 3.1 A member training and awareness raising programme has been in place for the Planning Committee over the last four administrative terms of the Council. The programme continues to support a wider group of elected members who have an interest in, or requirement to be briefed on, relevant Planning issues.
- 3.2 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.

4. Main report

- 4.1 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. Five dates have been added to the Council diary for Wednesday afternoons as follows:
 - 4 September 2019;
 - 30 October 2019:
 - 27 November 2019:
 - 29 January 2020;
 - 11 March 2020; and
 - 10 June 2020 (full day Committee Tour).

4.2 Proposed themes for the 2019/20 programme will include:

Development planning and policy

- Regional planning and City Deal
- Edinburgh Old and New Towns World Heritage Site management plan

Service improvements and performance monitoring

Outcomes of the service improvements

Sustainable development

- Strategic and local level
- Delivering a zero-carbon city
- Sustainability as part of the design process

Ongoing reform of the Scottish Planning system

- Outcomes from the Planning Bill
- Secondary legislation and implementation of changes

Design Guidance

- Development and density
- Mixed uses
- Materials
- Street design and public realm
- 4.3 With Planning Committee extending its remit to include development frameworks including public realm for place making and strategic infrastructure, training will be delivered on these topics. The workshops will also provide the opportunity to deliver cross-Committee training on the above themes and members from the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work and Transport and Environment Committees will be invited to participate

5. Next Steps

5.1 The proposed training and awareness themes will be delivered over the course of the coming year.

6. Financial impact

6.1 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.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

7.1 The training and awareness raising programme provides elected members with a better understanding of planning issues in the city and supports the Planning Committee in their assessment of planning proposals and strategies as they come forward.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 None.

9. Appendices

9.1 None.