

## Planning Committee Training and Awareness Raising Programme

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Planning Committee  
5 August 2010

### 1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To advise committee of proposals for the next series of training and awareness raising workshops as part of the programme of culture change in planning.

### 2 Summary

- 2.1 Since May 2007, the Planning Service has delivered training for members of the Planning Committee as part of a programme of culture change in planning. This is in order to meet the government's proposals for modernising the planning system. This report proposes further such training for the period September to December 2010.

### 3 Main report

#### Background

- 3.1 The legislative changes introduced by Scottish Government to implement the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 are not sufficient on their own to meet the desired outcomes. Culture change, involving key stakeholders, is therefore necessary to ensure the delivery of a more effective planning service. Since May 2007, the Council has been delivering an extensive programme for both officers and elected members.

#### Elected Member Training

- 3.2 The training and awareness programme for members of the Planning Committee aims to provide support for them as key facilitators of culture change. The subjects included in the programme provide background to members in terms of forthcoming policy decisions and as the context for decisions on specific development proposals.

- 3.3 During 2010, members of Planning Committee have so far attended nine training events. This includes seven Wednesday morning workshops and two afternoon workshops. The first of these was on the work of SESPlan; the second was a joint Planning/Economic Development Committee event.
- 3.4 Generally, the feedback from committee members on the training received has been positive.
- 3.5 Building upon this training and awareness raising, a further programme has been arranged for the autumn of 2010.

#### **Awareness Raising Workshops – Autumn Series**

- 3.6 Awareness raising workshops are scheduled to take place prior to the Development Management Sub Committee meetings on the dates shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.7 The five training events will be delivered by both Council staff and external presenters. The order in which the topics are programmed may vary with the availability of speakers, and this will be notified by email to members as final arrangements for each event are confirmed.
- 3.8 The following proposed subjects aim to contribute to an understanding of significant planning matters:

- **Homes for Scotland** - this workshop will be led by Gina Bellhouse, Principal practitioner within the Planning Service who has been on a part-time secondment with Homes for Scotland for the last six months. It will involve representatives of the housebuilding industry. The workshop will explore lessons learned from the exercise and opportunities for new ways of working.
- **Presentation Procedures at DM Sub-Committee** - this follows an earlier workshop, held on 10 February, to discuss presentation formats used at planning sub-committee meetings. Options will be presented for improvements to assist members and third parties observing or participating in meetings.

**Designing Streets** - the implications of Scottish Government's first policy on street design for planning policy and development proposals will be highlighted by representatives from Planning and Transport. Members of the Transport Infrastructure and Environment (TIE) Committee will be invited to join Planning committee members at this workshop.

- **Transport Scotland** - to provide a general overview of the work undertaken by Transport Scotland as national transport agency. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to update members on current projects involving itself and the Council, including the Forth Replacement Crossing, the Borders Rail Project, and other strategic proposals.

- **Urban Model** - to highlight the main features of the urban model of the World Heritage Site which is being developed by the Council and Edinburgh World Heritage. The digital model will be of use in assessing the implications of development proposals and members will be able to consider how it could be used in committee meetings.

#### **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no new financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **5 Environmental Impact**

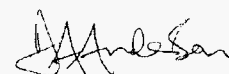
- 5.1 There will be a positive environmental benefit from the training of decision-makers in contextual matters affecting Planning.

#### **6 Conclusions**

- 6.1 The proposed Planning Committee Training and Awareness Programme is part of the process of culture change that is a fundamental part of the Department's continuing commitment to achieve the modernising planning agenda of the Scottish Government.

#### **7 Recommendations**

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the Training and Awareness Programme to run from September to December 2010, as set out in this report.



**Dave Anderson**  
Director of City Development

<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1: Proposed Committee Training programme – Autumn 2010
<b>Contact/tel</b>	Sarah Hartop, 469 3934 <a href="mailto:sarah.hartop@edinburgh.gov.uk">sarah.hartop@edinburgh.gov.uk</a>
<b>Wards affected</b>	City-wide
<b>Single Outcome agreement</b>	<p>Supports National Outcome 10: we live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need</p> <p>Supports National Outcome 12: we value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.</p> <p>Supports Local Outcome: The development of a quality built and natural environment is well supported.</p>
<b>Background Papers</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Report by the Director of City Development to Planning Committee, 13 May 2010 “Planning Committee Training and Awareness Raising Programme”, Agenda Item 17.</li> <li>2. Scottish Government, “Delivering Planning Reform”, October 2008 <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/11/05100742/0">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/11/05100742/0</a></li> </ol>

## APPENDIX 1

### PLANNING COMMITTEE TRAINING PROGRAMME AND AWARENESS- RAISING PROGRAMME

#### Autumn 2010

Awareness raising workshops to assist in the understanding of the context of development.

<b>Indicative Topic (to be confirmed)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Location</b>
Homes for Scotland	Thursday 2 September	10.00- 12.00pm	Dean of Guild Room
Presentation Procedures at DM Sub-Committee	Wednesday 22 September	9:00-9:50 am	Dean of Guild Room
Designing Streets	Wednesday 27 October	9:00-9:50 am	Dean of Guild Room
Transport Scotland	Wednesday 10 November	9:00–9:50am	Dean of Guild Room
Urban Model	Wednesday 8 December	9.00-9.50am	Dean of Guild Room