

Planning Committee Training and Awareness Raising Programme

Planning Committee
7 August 2008

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report proposes a Programme for the Planning Committee in Training and Awareness Raising. It is part of the programme of Culture Change in Planning and is set within the context of the modernisation of the Scottish Planning System.

2 Summary

- 2.1 The Planning Service has been undertaking a programme of culture change required to meet the government's modernisation agenda of the Planning System. The internal structure of the service has been reorganised and staff training undertaken. In the next year the focus will be on outward engagement with stakeholders. Another action required to fulfil the process of culture change is the training of councillors who sit on the Planning Committee. Some training and awareness workshops have already been completed. This report proposes a further programme of Committee training.

3 Main report

Background

- 3.1 The modernisation of the planning system has been underway since 2001. The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 sets the framework for this modernisation process. The complete provisions of this legislation have yet to be implemented and the Scottish Government is currently considering the consultation responses on secondary legislation.
- 3.2 Legislative changes alone are not enough to meet the desired outcomes for modernising the planning system. A programme of culture change was identified as necessary to meet objectives for economic development, community engagement and a more effective delivery of planning services. The

Scottish Government through its publication *Unlocking Planning's Potential*, calls for changes in processes and behaviours of all organisations that interact with the system.

- 3.3 In response to this, the Council commenced its culture change programme in early 2007. Earlier reports have set out the extent of changes to staffing, internal organisation and training.
- 3.4 This included a Planning Committee Training and Awareness Raising programme timed to commence after the May 2007 elections.

Elected Member Training

- 3.5 Members of the Planning Committee are key facilitators of culture change in determining the broad vision and direction of the development of the city and in deciding the outcomes of specific development proposals. Following the 2007 elections, a programme of training workshops and awareness raising seminars have been conducted to provide new members with an induction to their role, key planning issues and have raised awareness of local factors affecting decision making. These are set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.6 Building upon previous training and awareness raising it is proposed to continue that training in a programme of one training workshop and six awareness raising workshops all to take place in the latter part of 2008 and as detailed in Appendix 2.
- 3.7 Awareness raising workshops will be scheduled to take place prior to Development Management Sub Committee meetings.
- 3.8 Included will be topics relating to the historic environment and sustainability, materials in developments, development economics and community engagement.
- 3.9 Training events will be run 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.

Topics

Awareness Raising Workshops

- 3.10 A range of awareness raising presentations will contribute to an understanding of significant planning matters:
 - A workshop in **Sustainability in Older Buildings** has been postponed from 25 June. It will be delivered in association with the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and will present recent research findings. It will precede a report to Committee on the topic.

- A workshop on **Historic Buildings** will be offered by Historic Scotland as a follow up to a workshop delivered on 14 May. It will cover the new Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) on listing with an update on the latest listing criteria.
- A workshop on **Use of Materials** will follow up previous design training and the committee tour.
- A workshop in **Development Economics** will follow up topics covered on 17 January. The workshop is to be presented in conjunction with a housebuilder to illustrate the relationship between development costs and development contributions.
- A workshop in **Community Engagement** will introduce key issues in preparing for more early engagement with local communities on major development proposals.
- A workshop on planning **policies for retail premises** will explore the planning policies and guidelines available to protect and adapt local centres.

Training Events

- 3.11 Two dates are programmed in the diary for Planning Committee training events. The first, in September, is likely to be required to consider reports and ease the programming of reports to Committee. The second date, in November, provides an opportunity to focus training onto the implementation of the national planning reforms at local level. This date may well be required, depending on the Government's programme of implementation, to assist members in relation to a local review body and revised hearing procedures. These will be detailed at a later stage.

4 Financial Implications

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

5 Conclusions

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

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to approve the Training and Awareness Programme to run from September to December 2008, as set out in this report.



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Appendices	Appendix 1: Previous Committee Training Appendix 2: Planning Committee Training Programme - Autumn 2008
Contact/tel	Barbara Stuart 529 3927 barbara.stuart@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	City-wide
Background Papers	1. Report by the Director of City Development to Planning Committee, 28 February, 2008 "Culture Change in Planning", Agenda Item 17. 2. <i>Unlocking Planning's Potential</i> , Scottish Government, April 2007 http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/172608/0048200/pdf

APPENDIX 1

PLANNING COMMITTEE TRAINING PROGRAMME AND AWARENESS-RAISING PROGRAMME

POST-ELECTION MAY 2007

1. Training workshops to meet recommended essential knowledge and skills agenda.

Induction training to meet Improvement Service recommendations and introduce key Committee procedures - full day workshop - external consultants and CEC Managers	Monday 28 May
Enforcement - half day workshop - CEC Managers	Wednesday 13 June
Development Planning (including detail on ECLP) - half day workshop - CEC Managers	Thursday 21 June
Design considerations - full day workshop - with link to full day Committee Tour provisionally arranged with Glasgow City Council - external consultants, Design Leader and CEC Managers	Workshop - Thursday 6 September Tour to Glasgow - Thursday 27 September
Affordable Housing/Parking Standards - half day workshop - CEC Managers	Monday 24 September
Streetscape - half day workshop - CEC Managers	Thursday 11 October
Appeals and Members' roles - half day workshop - SEIRU representative and Council Solicitor	Thursday 8 November
Development Economics - half day workshop - Consultant	Thursday 17 January
Local Plan Inquiry Process - half day workshop - CEC Managers	Thursday 17 April
Design Review - full day tour/workshop (annual Committee Tour) - CEC Managers and guest speakers	Thursday 12 June

2. Awareness raising sessions to assist understanding of context for development (presentation and discussion lasting one hour prior to meetings of the Development Management Sub Committee)

Heritage issues and the World Heritage Site	Wednesday 15 August
Standards for Sustainable Building	Wednesday 29 August
City Centre Planning issues	Wednesday 12 September
Edinburgh City Local Plan	Wednesday 26 September
Architecture and Design Scotland	Wednesday 31 October
Designing Safer Places - police architectural liaison officers	Wednesday 14 November
Student Accommodation	Wednesday 20 February
Green Belt	Wednesday 12 March
Design Principles	Wednesday 30 April
Skyline Policy	Wednesday 7 May
Historic Scotland	Wednesday 14 May
Retail Planning Policy	Wednesday 28 May
Streetscape: Traffic signs	Wednesday 4 June

APPENDIX 2

PLANNING COMMITTEE TRAINING PROGRAMME AND AWARENESS-RAISING PROGRAMME

AUTUMN 2008

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

Topic	Date	Times	Location
Sustainability in Older Buildings	Wednesday 3 September	9:00-9:50 am	Dean of Guild Room
Historic Buildings	Wednesday 17 September	9:00-9:50 am	Dean of Guild Room
Use of Materials	Wednesday 15 October	9:00-9:50 am	Dean of Guild Room
Development Economics	Wednesday 5 November	9:00-9:50 am	Dean of Guild Room
Community Engagement	Wednesday 19 November	9:00-9:50 am	Dean of Guild Room
Policies for Retail Premises	Wednesday 3 December	9:00-9:50 am	Dean of Guild Room

4. Training workshops to meet recommended essential knowledge and skills agenda.

Topic	Date	Times	Location
Implementation of the National Reforms	Thursday 6 November	2 pm	To be notified