

Annual Planning Committee Tour

Planning Committee
21 April 2005

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Planning Committee of this year's proposed Annual Planning Committee Tour, which is designed to be a continuation of the Councillor Training in Planning Issues programme.
- 1.2 This year's tour is aimed at offering a comparative study of design issues in Gateshead and Newcastle.

2 Summary

- 2.1 The tour is proposed to take place on Friday 10 June 2005, and will involve travel to a number redevelopment sites in Gateshead and Newcastle to offer a comparative for similar sites in Edinburgh.

3 Main report

Background

- 3.1 The programme of training in planning issues for councillors, delivered in a series of workshops, site visits and annual tours, has provided an improved level of awareness and assists in the decision making process.
- 3.2 Edinburgh continues to enjoy a surge of growth and development, and the opportunity exists to create new and great places. By visiting and examining similar developments elsewhere in the country the Planning Committee can determine the success of these developments and seek ways to improve on them, to ensure a better quality environment for Edinburgh.

The Tour

- 3.3 It is proposed to visit Gateshead and Newcastle. The duration of the tour will be the full day of 10 June 2005, including lunch. Travel to and from the destinations will be by coach. It is anticipated that three sites will be visited. These are as follows:
- Staiths South Bank – Wimpey residential development on a brownfield site, designed by Wayne Hemingway of Hemingway Design.
 - Quayside Gateshead – Including the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, a conversion of a former flour mill by Ellis Williams Architects, and Sage Gateshead, a modern home for music designed by Fosters and Partners.
 - Grainger Town and the Geordie Ramblas – The historic heart of Newcastle, where a partnership project between Newcastle City Council, English Partnership and English Heritage are in the process of regenerating this once declining sector of the city and connecting City and Waterfront.
- 3.4 It is anticipated that each of the sites visited will be introduced and explained by either the architect/designer of the scheme or by a representative of Newcastle City Council or Gateshead Council.
- 3.5 The tour should be attended by the Convenor and Planning Committee members and will be accompanied by senior planning officers. As usual, guests will be invited from a number of organisations working closely with the planning process, to contribute to the discussions on the day.

4 Financial Implications

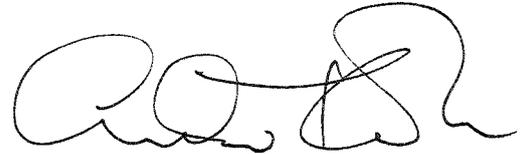
- 4.1 The costs of this training will be contained within the Department's existing revenue budget.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The programme of training in planning issues for councillors has provided an improved level of awareness and assists in the decision making process.
- 5.2 The Annual Planning Committee Tour will contribute to this training programme.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to the proposed Annual Planning Committee Tour proposals.



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Director of City Development

13.4.05

Appendices None
Contact/tel Gina Bellhouse 0131 529 3140
Wards affected City wide
Background Papers None