

Design Initiative - The Quality of Urban Design, Championing High Standards

Planning Committee
21 April 2005

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report provides Committee with an update on the progress of the Design Initiative as the vehicle to implement the recommendations of the Urban Design Working Group.
- 1.2 To outline the majority of the tasks which have been carried out or influenced by the Design Initiative.

2 Summary

- 2.1 A year on from the appointment of the City Design Champion and following the report of to Planning Committee of 3 June 2004 which outlined the objectives of the Design Initiative, it is appropriate to give an account of the range of tasks that have been carried out under the guidance of Sir Terry Farrell, the City Design Champion.

3 Main report

- 3.1 In outlining the work of the Design Initiative, it is important to realise how it is structured. It consists of The City Design Champion, Sir Terry Farrell whose function is one of leadership. The City Design Champion has an Advisory Board which acts as a forum for discussion and direction. There is a sub group of the Advisory Board which is looking at the Architecture of Belonging. The Advisory Board meets quarterly and it is resourced and administered by the City Design Leader.
- 3.2 The City Design Initiative reported to Committee on 3 June 2004 outlining its work programme, which consisted of six strands of work, which addressed Sir Terry's four themes:

Compact City

(Density, Sustainability, environmental Quality, Innovation, metropolitan issues)

Shared City

(Communications, PR, Social inclusiveness and cohesion, knowledge transfer)

Walking City

(Public realm, Transport, Permeability)

Waterfront City

(Waterfront, Place Making, Forward Planning)

The six strands of work:

1. **Edinburgh's Design Manifesto**
2. **Public realm tool kit**
3. **Tram**
4. **Waterfront City**
5. **Ideas pavilion**
6. **Homes for the future suburban**

- 3.3 Since reporting to Committee on the six strands, the work has evolved and Sir Terry has developed a mechanism to embody all the differing Themes and Strands into a simple and deliverable process, the City Tiles. The City Tiles process will be presented to the Council in May.
- 3.4 The activities related to the Six Strands have been split into the themes which they address, with the addition of the City Tiles. Achieved tasks appear at the top of each table and are followed by the outstanding tasks in a descending order of priority.

Compact City

Housing Density Study launch 16 March 2005 launch event to bring focus to important research which the council commissioned in conjunction with communities scotland. speakers at event: Sir Terry Farrell, Raymond Young Chair of Architecture + Design Scotland (A+DS) and Councillor Trevor Davies.	Achieved
Homes for the Future Suburban. This strand has generated a lot of interest. Discussion is continuing to assess whether publicly owned sites may be available for the creation of this exemplar development. Homes Scotland and the EDI group are among the parties who have expressed an interest in the initiative.	Autumn 2007 Paused
City Centre Process to deliver shared objectives about how the City centre reaches its full potential	Summer 2005 Ongoing

Process to develop an approach to the redevelopment of Waverley station which goes beyond the basic transportation issues and realises its potential for the City Centre	Autumn 2005 Ongoing
House Builders Master classes (link to homes for the future suburban) Proposals to host a learning event where a selection of House Builders are exposed to innovative but commercially realistic ways of delivering the housing product, with a Focus on Place Making.	Autumn 2005 Ongoing
Housing Density Study workshops Series of eight workshops, four internal to the Council and four to engage all the stakeholders outwith CEC. These workshops, which will take place over Spring and Summer 2005, are designed to allow CEC to consider how the research findings should impact on Council policy and services	Spring/Summer 2005 Ongoing
Compact City Conference National conference to announce what measures the City is putting in place to enable sustainable growth, which embraces the issues contained in the housing density study. A+DS have agreed to be one of the sponsors.	Autumn 2005 Ongoing
High Building Policy review. The City Design Initiative has been involved in the briefing and selection of the consultants who will undertake this study for the City and its partners. The design initiative encouraged SEEL to be involved, to ensure that there were sufficient funds to fully commission the study. It is proposed that the Design initiative develop an exhibition related to this important study and a publication.	Autumn 2005 Ongoing
Craigmillar The Design Leader is involved in discussions re the evolving masterplan and the issues of density and environmental quality.	Ongoing

Shared City

DESIGN: time to take stock 24 Feb 2005 Major Scottish Executive conference on the way forward for Urban Design. The City Design Initiative contributed, with Councillor Trevor Davies and Riccardo Marini giving presentations. The City Design Initiative sponsored 10 officers attendance, including officers from Transport.	Achieved
Streets for People Workshop Design Initiative has sponsored two CEC officers to attend this CABE workshop in London. This workshop is an introduction to current thoughts in Urban Design Thinking. One officer was from the Planning function and one from the Transport function of City Development.	18 Jan 2005 Achieved

<p>Lunch time seminars The City Design Initiative has been involved in two lunch time seminars; subjects – Design Initiative, Architecture of Belonging</p>	<p>Achieved</p>
<p>Skilling Up Further learning visits are being considered. Potential locations are - Poundberry, Barcelona, Copenhagen, Salford, Gateshead. Other discussions are clarifying the potential involvement of The Lighthouse and Scottish Executive.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>The Architecture of Belonging The City Design Champion Advisory Group sub committee is working on the Architecture of Belonging. The output is a document which communicates in a simple but eloquent manner the concept of sense of place. This work has to be able to be used to inform Planning guidance.</p>	<p>Winter 2005 Ongoing</p>
<p>City Development Department Design Forum Whenever possible, The Design Leader attends the Planning Officers' Design Forum so that the Design initiative is kept informed of current applications.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Moving Conversations – City Design Champion Lectures Public Lectures being arranged: March 2005 Sir Terry Farrell 'Place' May 2005 Benedetta Tagliabue Iconic Buildings August 2005 Robert Adam – John Prevc of MAKE Masterplanning outwith land ownership October 2005 TBC City Centre Vision November 2005 Wayne Hemingway Let's build better Places!</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Design Forum Supermarkets A reoccurring topic is the inability of developers who are pursuing large retail outlets, to understand and deal with context. A process to set up learning opportunities for officers and agents has been discussed.</p>	<p>Paused</p>
<p>Ideas pavilion – Manifesto (edi web site) Awaiting further quotes to allow for commissioning of a web site</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Scottish Design Awards The City of Edinburgh Council Design Initiative is one of the sponsors of the Scottish Design Awards. This year, a specific category has been created to reflect the objectives of the Design Initiative. PLACE MAKING is the category, this is the first time that an award of this type has been created. The RIBA will be incorporating a Place Making award in 2006. The award is spit into three elements; a student award, proposed Place Making award and completed Place Making Award.</p>	

<p>Sir Terry Farrell is the chair of the judges and the Design Leader is one of the judges.</p> <p>The Judging has taken place and the award ceremony is on 27 May 2005</p>	Ongoing
<p>Smart Schools Initiative, phase 2</p> <p>The Design Leader has been involvement with the selection of the architectural advisors to the SSI process. Currently awaiting information on opportunities to enter discussion with the consortia</p>	Paused
<p>Elected Member Training workshops</p> <p>The City Design Initiative has been involved in a feedback workshop as an outcome of a study visit to the Netherlands.</p> <p>There is a proposed Learning visit to Newcastle and Gateshead and a training workshop on the Architecture of belonging is in preparation.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Six Cites Festival</p> <p>This is a Scottish Executive project which is trying to set up a biannual festival to celebrate Architecture Urbanism and the Creative industries in Scotland.</p> <p>The Design Initiative has been involved in the early discussions and is endeavouring to maintain a focus on Edinburgh's place as the leader in Design Issues.</p>	<p>2007</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>6000 MILES</p> <p>The Lighthouse organised an exhibition about six architectural projects sited in Scottish coastal locations. Portobello is one, which the Design Initiative has commented on. The Design Leader will give a presentation at the launch seminar.</p>	<p>April 2005</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Craigmillar-perception and reality</p> <p>Proposed study to look at how policy which is designed to improve our built environment is, or is not, delivering real place making. Would be pursued in conjunction with the Scottish Centre for Confidence and Wellbeing.</p>	<p>Spring 2006</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>RIBA 10th Stirling prize - 15 October 2005 Edinburgh</p> <p>Initiated discussions with RIBA events about the possible involvement of Design Initiative in these prestigious awards. The Stirling Prize coincides with the Design European summit and a programme of events will be discussed with the Scottish Executive.</p>	<p>October 2005</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>City to City learning</p> <p>Sir Terry Farrell is keen to have small scale events where politicians and senior officers in other cities which have had an impact in regeneration share their experiences with us. The Initiative will need to develop a programme of events to develop this strand</p>	Paused
<p>City Design Champion Student Prize</p> <p>This will be a prize for the best student who can demonstrate through their work an understanding of Place Making. It will be open to Planning, Architecture and Landscape Architecture Students from the four Edinburgh institutions who are involved in teaching these subjects. Sir Terry will be the Chair of the judges with the respective heads of school. The overall value of prize to be £1500.</p>	<p>October 2005</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

<p>Twin Cities Chief Architects. The Lord Provost and the Convenor visited Bavaria. Contact was made with the senior officials who deal with design matters and an invitation was given for them to visit Edinburgh. Discussion has taken place to set up a series of events which our guests will attend. This process, which initially is aimed at our Bavarian counterparts, will be expanded to forge links with other twin cities.</p>	<p>Summer 2005</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
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Walking City

<p>TramSpotting RIAS conference The Design Initiative was involved in the setting up of this conference. Councillor Trevor Davies, Sir Terry Farrell and the Design Leader all gave presentations</p>	<p>26 Nov. 2004</p> <p>Achieved</p>
<p>TRAM Organised a presentation for Sir Terry Farrell and Councillor Trevor Davies by TIE on the current proposals. Currently working on design guides and public realm impact.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Public Realm Tool Kit – Edinburgh Standards for Streets Ongoing process where the Edinburgh Standards for Streets are being reviewed. This process is not a simple reformulation and update of policy and design guidance. The opportunity has been taken to use it as a skilling up tool to ensure that ownership of the Standards lies with the Council functions which will use it. Enabling workshops have been organised and demonstration projects are on the way. A discrete element of the Standards will deal with the specific issues raised by the Waterfront developments. A successful workshop dedicated to Waterfront City Public Realm issues was held on 7 January 2005. Sir Terry Farrell will be closely involved in the drafting of the preface (strategic overview) of the document. Colin Davis Associates are the external consultants who are commissioned to produce the revised Standards</p>	<p>Autumn 2005-03-24</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Streets for People Workshop The Design Initiative has sponsored two CEC officers to attend this CABE workshop in London. The objective is to get CABE/IHT in conjunction with CEC to repeat the workshop in Edinburgh, possibly in two sessions: one for CEC and the other for other Scottish Local authorities.</p>	<p>Summer 2005-03-24</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Waterfront City

<p>Waterfront City Design Summit A successful design summit was set up to review and discuss the evolving issues related to the Waterfront area. 70 delegates attended, and a lively and informative dialogue took place during the work shop sessions. Main issues related to coordination and how to Place Make.</p>	<p>17 June 2004</p> <p>Achieved</p>
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<p>Waterfront City Steering Group One of the issues raised by many of the delegates at the June 2004 Waterfront City Design Summit was the apparent lack of coherence and coordination in relation to the overall Waterfront area. The setting up of a Council corporate steering group at Directorate level is one of the outcomes of this summit. The steering group will be supported by a Project Group which will be coordinated by City Development's Strategic Development Team.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Waterfront City 3 weekly Reviews In conjunction with the Strategic Development Team, regular three weekly review sessions are being organised. This is to develop skills in understanding such a complex area, to ensure that developments are of the best quality possible and critically to view projects in their context, which will allow officers to gain a better understanding of how to Place Make. After the initial two reviews, it is proposed to invite guest reviewers to enrich the process.</p>	Ongoing
<p>10 Mile boardwalk arts strategy Discussion has taken place between CABE and the City Design Initiative about the development of an arts approach to Waterfront City. Forth Ports has expressed interest in this proposal. CABE is hoping for a submission for grant funding.</p>	Spring 2005 Paused
<p>Leith Walk to Waterfront City The benefits of commissioning a study to show how a physical connection could be created to link the City Centre with Waterfront City is to be examined; this study may be one of the outcomes of the City Tiles process.</p>	Ongoing

City Tiles

- 3.5 City tiles is a process which Sir Terry Farrell has developed to map out the City to see where we need to concentrate our master planning attention in response to either inactivity or too much activity. It is an approach to ensure that areas which would not normally attract the investment in terms of design time are looked at with the aim of integration.
- 3.6 Too often masterplanning is purely a function of land ownership and rising land values. We need to ensure that the whole of the City is looked at and that we are proactive in terms of planning and determining the future shape of Edinburgh. Only if this spatial planning approach is evolved, does Sir Terry Farrell believe we will begin to once again Place Make.
- 3.7 A date has been set for the City Design Champion to report to full Council (12 May 2005). This will be an opportunity for Sir Terry Farrell to account for the first year of his tenure, and to explain what he believes the approach for the future should be. The City Tiles process will be outlined and explained.

3.9 This process is one which the Design Champion believes should support and enrich the existing planning processes the City is involved in. Two dates are being set up for presentations to senior officers. One will be at the beginning of April and one a couple of weeks before presentation to Council. These will be opportunities for comment to ensure that what will be presented will deliver synergy with the planning process.

3.10 It has been agreed that what Sir Terry Farrell will deliver by the end of his term will be the City Tiles process to cover the City Centre and the Waterfront city area.

4 Financial Implications

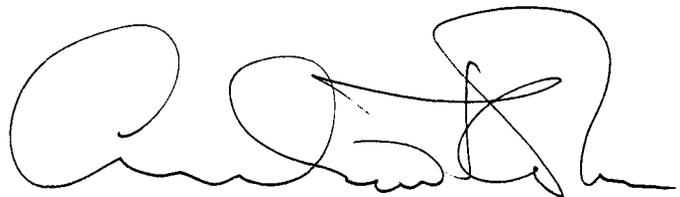
4.1 There is £200k allocated to this initiative to cover this financial year and the next. This money will pay for the staff element and publication/events. Additional expenditure which is required to commission studies will be generated with sponsorship and other sources of funding. If that is not forthcoming, then that additional work will not be carried out.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The Design Initiative over the past year has set the City Design agenda. It needs to continue to strive to have a positive impact on the development industry and the public. The next phase of work, the City tiles, will have a positive impact on the perception of Edinburgh as a confident forward-looking city which is looking forward to set guidelines and standards for development, which recognises the invaluable assets which it has inherited and is endeavouring to reinforce its identity by engaging in real 'Place Making'.

6 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes that the recommendations of the Urban Design Working Group are being taken forward by the City's Design Initiative.



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Appendices None
Contact/tel Riccardo Marini 529 3731
Wards affected All
**Background
Papers** None

RM/FM/PLANCOM/Quality of Urb Des - Championing High Stds
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