

## Committee Minutes

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### Planning Committee

Edinburgh, 22 March 2007

**Present:-** Councillors Davies (Convener), Child, The Hon David Guest, Hunter, Longstaff, Lowrie, Marshall, Munro, Murray (Vice-Convener), Ponton, Tritton, Walker and Wigglesworth.

**Also Present:** Councillor Edie.

#### 1 Minutes

##### 1.1 Planning Committee

The minute of the Planning Committee of 22 February 2007 was approved as a correct record.

##### 1.2 Development Quality Sub-Committees

The minutes of the Development Quality Sub-Committees of 21 and 28 February and 7 March 2007 were approved as correct records.

##### 1.3 Development Quality Sub-Committee Visits

The record of the visits made by the Development Quality Sub-Committee on 8 February 2007 was noted.

#### 2 National Planning Framework Review

The Scottish Executive had begun a review of the National Planning Framework (NPF) for Scotland and sought the views of stakeholders and the public.

The Committee was asked to approve the proposed response to the National Planning Framework.

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**Decision**

- 1) To welcome the opportunity to take part in the first review of the National Planning Framework.
- 2) To agree to forward the Director of City Development's report to the Scottish Executive as the Council's input to the review.

(Reference – report no PC/091/06-07/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted)

**3 Incorporating the Provisions of the West Edinburgh Planning Framework into the Development Plan**

The Committee had previously continued consideration of changes to the development plan as a result of the draft replacement West Edinburgh Planning Framework (WEPF) to allow further assessment of the response to that Framework.

A focused alteration to the Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan was identified as being the most effective way to make changes.

**Decision**

- 1) To advise the Edinburgh and Lothian Structure Plan Joint Liaison Committee that a structure plan alteration regarding west Edinburgh should not be pursued.
- 2) To agree to prepare an alteration to the Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan for the reasons set out in the report by the Director of City Development.
- 3) To agree that the alteration will generally be limited to matters arising out of the review of the West Edinburgh Planning Framework but will also take the opportunity to:
  - a) Incorporate the relevant provisions of SPP15 (Planning for Rural Development), published over 2 years ago, and SPP21 (Green Belts), published in April last year.
  - b) Address the future regeneration of Newbridge and Ratho Station, communities directly affected by the land use allocations in the WEPF.

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- 4) To agree that the alteration and the master planning for the WEPF area must ensure that new development in the A8 corridor is designed as an integral part of the city.

(Reference – Planning Committee 22 February 2007, item 2b; report no PC/092/06-07/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted.)

#### **4 Edinburgh City Local Plan – Finalisation**

The Committee had previously noted responses to a consultation on the draft Edinburgh City Local Plan.

A finalised draft of the plan had now been prepared taking account of these responses and the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The Committee was asked to approve the finalised Edinburgh City Local Plan.

Councillor Edie was heard as a local ward member.

##### **Motion**

- 1) To approve the finalised Edinburgh City Local Plan, subject to minor editing, in consultation with the Convener, and in particular, to elaborate on: the provision of cycle and subterranean car parking, water based recreation, and future freight uses of Leith Docks.
- 2) To approve the Council's responses to representations commenting on the draft plan, as contained in Appendix 2 to the report.
- 3) To authorise the Director of City Development to place the plan 'on deposit' for a formal objection period and notify all interested parties.
- 4) To thank the staff who had worked on the plan, and organisations and individuals who commented on it during its evolution.

- moved by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Murray.

##### **Amendment 1**

In similar terms to the motion, but to delete HSG15 (Edinburgh Zoo) from Table 6.2 Housing Sites.

- moved by Councillor Lowrie, seconded by Councillor Ponton.

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## **Amendment 2**

In similar terms to the motion, but to delete HSG17 (South Gyle Wynd) from Table 6.2 Housing Sites.

- moved by Councillor Tritton, seconded by Councillor Lowrie.

## **Voting**

For the motion – 10 votes

For Amendment 1 – 3 votes

For Amendment 2 – 2 votes

## **Decision**

- 1) To approve the finalised Edinburgh City Local Plan, subject to minor editing, in consultation with the Convener, and in particular, to elaborate on: the provision of cycle and subterranean car parking, water based recreation, and future freight uses of Leith Docks.
- 2) To approve the Council's responses to representations commenting on the draft plan, as contained in Appendix 2 to the report.
- 3) To authorise the Director of City Development to place the plan 'on deposit' for a formal objection period and notify all interested parties.
- 4) To thank the staff who had worked on the plan, and organisations and individuals who commented on it during its evolution.

(References – Planning Committee 5 October 2006, item 7; report no PC/093/06-07/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted.)

## **5 Edinburgh Standards for Housing – Progress Report**

Details were provided of progress made in preparing the Edinburgh Standards for Housing, and of examples of good practice of place-making and sustainable housing elsewhere in the UK.

The aim of the Standards was to achieve high-quality successful and sustainable residential environments and would set out the Council's requirements on a diverse range of development issues, including open space, waste management, parking provision, space standards, and housing type and mix.

**Decision**

To note the progress made on the Edinburgh Standards for Housing.

(Reference – report no PC/094/06-07/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted)

**6 Development Quality Handbook Annual Review**

Details were provided of the annual review of the Supplementary Planning Guidance contained within the Development Quality Handbook, including revisions made over the previous year. The report also identified guidance which may be subject to change in the future in response to known and emerging planning issues, and suggested priorities for implementation.

**Decision**

- 1) To approve the priorities and work programme proposed in the report.
- 2) To agree that the Handbook continues to be audited on an annual basis, gathering together the individual monitoring arrangements for each guideline, noting that the next report would be presented in early 2008.

(Reference – report no PC/095/06-07/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted.)

**7 The Waterfront Promenade – Progress Report**

The Committee had previously approved a programme of work for the development of a coastal promenade from Cramond to Joppa.

Details were provided of progress made and of a revised programme of preliminary works and studies to further the project.

**Decision**

To approve the continuing development of the Waterfront Promenade project as detailed in the report by the Director of City Development.

(Reference – planning Committee 18 May 2006, item 6; report no PC/096/06-07/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted)

## **8 Development Planning – A Structure for Culture Change**

Details were provided of the current pressures facing Planning Strategy, the changes required in consequence and the resources required to fund a service which achieves both national targets for plan preparation and delivers development on the ground.

Proposals were detailed of how existing staff, together with new staff as resources were released, could be most appropriately structured to implement change.

### **Decision**

To agree to the establishment of the Development Planning section as detailed in the Director of City Development's report under the option for "Strategic Leadership".

(Reference – report no PC/097/06-07/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted)

## **9 Development Management – A Structure for Culture Change**

Details were provided of the current pressures facing the development control function of the Planning service and how it could be transformed into a development management function to address the needs of the new Planning Act and the Council's corporate improvement programme.

### **Decision**

To agree to the establishment of the Development Management section as detailed in the Director of City Development's report under the option for "A Structure for Change".

(Reference – report no PC/097/06-07/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted)

## **10 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning**

Details were provided of the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning 2006, presented by the Scottish Executive in association with the Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland.

One award had been received for 'outstanding performance and quality in development management' for the public consultation exercise carried out in reference to the development site at Shrubhill. Edinburgh Quay had also

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received a commendation for 'outstanding development on the ground, significantly attributable to the planning process'.

**Decision**

To note the awards and congratulate those involved.

(Reference – report no PC/099/06-07/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted)

**11 Morningside Finalised Conservation Area Character Appraisal**

The Committee had previously approved the draft Morningside Conservation Area Character Appraisal for consultation purposes.

Details were provided of the results of the consultation exercise, which had not resulted in any amendment to the appraisal.

**Decision**

To approve the finalised Conservation Area Character Appraisal.

(Reference – Planning Committee 10 August 2006, item 12; report no PC/100/06-07/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted)

**12 Grants to Planning Related Organisations 2007 – 2008**

Details were provided of grants to a range of voluntary planning-related organisations whose work benefited the delivery of the Council's statutory planning services.

**Decision**

- 1) To note the proposed payments of grants for 2007-08 to the organisations listed in the report by the Director of City Development.
- 2) To note that the Director of City Development would disburse any remaining funds in a comparable manner.

(Reference – report no PC/101/06-07/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted)

**Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Davies declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Director of Edinburgh World Heritage Trust.

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Councillor Child also declared a non-financial interest in the item as a non-Executive Director of the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust.