

Planning Committee Training and Awareness Raising Programme

Planning Committee
3 September 2009

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report proposes the next series of training and awareness raising workshops for the Planning Committee 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 2009.

3 Main report

Background

- 3.1 The legislative changes introduced by Scottish Government to implement the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 are not sufficient to meet the desired outcomes. Culture change, involving key stakeholders, is therefore necessary to ensure the delivery of a more effective planning service. In May 2007, the Council began its own programme which covers staffing, internal organisation and training of 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 2009, members of Planning Committee have so far attended four training events (half-day or full day events) and nine workshops (Wednesday mornings) as part of this programme. Generally, the feedback from committee members on these has been positive.
- 3.4 Building upon this training and awareness raising, a further programme has been arranged for the autumn of 2009:

Awareness Raising Workshops – Autumn Series

- 3.5 Awareness raising workshops are scheduled to take place prior to the Development Management Sub Committee meetings on the dates shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.6 The six 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.
- 3.7 The proposed focus for the autumn series is to build understanding between Planning Committee members and key stakeholder groups. The timing is suitable in the period immediately following the implementation of the 2006 Planning Act and gives an opportunity to explore how culture change is being taken forward. There are also some workshop subjects which cover operational and policy issues to address members' requests.
- **Homes for Scotland** – to discuss current housing issues and, in particular, how the current economic downturn is affecting the market. To also consider related issues such as building design and quality.
 - **Historic Scotland (HS)** – to discuss how HS can work with the planning service to deliver a high quality environment.
 - **Carbon Footprints and development** – to discuss the sustainability of new development in relation to carbon footprints.
 - **SESPlan Main Issues Report** – to brief members and discuss the proposed content of the report prior to finalisation and consideration by committee.
 - **Central Scotland Green Network** – to discuss how the CSGN, which is now included as a national development in National Planning Framework 2, can help to deliver a better environment in Central Scotland and contribute to other policy objectives.
 - **Chamber of Commerce** – to discuss recent issues raised at the Edinburgh Development Forum, in particular, those affecting development and the operation of the planning system.

- **Daylighting/Sunlight/Privacy** – to brief members on the main elements of the revised DM guideline which was recently published in draft form.

4 Financial Implications

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

5 Environmental Impact

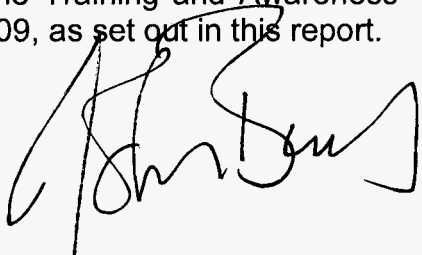
- 5.1 There will be a positive environmental benefit from the training of decision-makers in contextual matters affecting Planning.

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 2009, as set out in this report.



Dave Anderson
Director of City Development

Appendices	Appendix 1: Proposed Committee Training programme – Autumn 2009
Contact/tel	Sarah Hartop, 469 3934 sarah.hartop@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	City-wide
Single Outcome agreement	<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>
Background Papers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report by the Director of City Development to Planning Committee, 4 December, 2008 “Planning Committee Training and Awareness Raising Programme”, Agenda Item 9. 2. Scottish Government, “Delivering Planning Reform”, October 2008 http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/11/05100742/0

APPENDIX 1

PLANNING COMMITTEE TRAINING PROGRAMME AND AWARENESS- RAISING PROGRAMME

Autumn 2009

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

Indicative Topic (to be confirmed)	Date	Times	Location
Homes for Scotland	Wednesday 30 September	9:00-9:50 am	Dean of Guild Room
Historic Scotland	Wednesday 14 October	9:00-9:50 am	Dean of Guild Room
Carbon Footprints and Development	Wednesday 28 October	9:00–9:50am	Dean of Guild Room
SESPlan Main Issues Report	Thursday 5 November	2.00-4.00pm	Dean of Guild Room
Central Scotland Green Network	Wednesday 11 November	9:00-9:50 am	Dean of Guild Room
Chamber of Commerce	Wednesday 25 November	9:00-9:50 am	Dean of Guild Room
Daylighting/Privacy etc	Wednesday 9 December	9:00-9:50 am	Dean of Guild Room