

Planning Committee

Thursday, 6 August 2015

Planning Committee Workshop and Awareness Raising Programme

Item number	8.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	

Executive summary

The Planning Committee members are supported by a workshop and awareness raising programme designed to build on existing knowledge and assist members in making decisions on development plans and proposals for the city. The purpose of this report is to set out the arrangements for continuing the programme up to July 2016.

Links

Coalition pledges	P8, P17, P40
Council outcomes	CO7, CO8, CO16, CO19
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1, SO2, SO3, SO4

Planning Committee Workshop and Awareness Raising Programme

Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the workshop and awareness raising programme up to July 2016, as set out in this report.

Background

- 2.1 For over 10 years the Planning Committee has had an awareness raising and workshop programme. This has helped to build awareness and understanding of planning issues, and has improved relations with partner organisations and key stakeholders, including government agencies, local partners and the development sector.
- 2.2 The programme is an important part of supporting Committee members in their promotion of key economic development, social and environmental objectives through plan making and decisions on planning proposals.
- 2.3 In the last year, five workshops have been held for Committee members. These have focused on the Local Development Plan issues and representations, student housing, Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA), and the planning service performance and priorities. Additionally, four shorter awareness raising sessions have been held which have covered adverts, density and parking standards, the Local Review Body and committee procedures. Representatives of JC Decaux also participated in the advertisement session.
- 2.4 The annual Planning Committee tour for 2015 was postponed from June until September 2015 due to diary commitments. The tour will visit recently completed developments mainly agreed by this committee and there will be a focus on the placemaking agenda.

Main report

- 3.1 The next workshop and awareness raising programme is proposed to run from August 2015 to July 2016. The programme aims to build on existing knowledge and develop members' understanding of priority issues.

- 3.2 The programme will continue to be based around two hour workshops during months when there is no Planning Committee meeting and shorter awareness raising sessions immediately before some Development Management Sub-Committee meetings. Full day Planning Committee tours are expected to be held in September 2015 and June 2016.
- 3.3 Members have indicated that interactive sessions with time for questioning and general discussion of issues are a suitable format and some themes for future sessions are identified below. However, it is important that the programme is flexible so that priority issues can be addressed when appropriate.
- 3.4 It is expected that future sessions will be required to address matters such as infrastructure, air quality and effective housing land supply. In addition, members have suggested future sessions could cover the review of the Conservation Area Character Appraisals and community engagement.
- 3.5 Where appropriate, representatives from external organisations will be invited to contribute to the sessions.
- 3.6 The dates for the next series of events are listed in the appendix to this report. Members will be advised closer to the date of the session as to what specific topic will be covered.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Committee members feel confident and informed to make decisions relating to development planning and development proposals.

Financial impact

- 5.1 There are no new financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Provision for elected member training is contained in the Planning Service's Revenue Budget.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 There are no perceived risks associated with this report.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are no direct equalities impacts, but the proposed workshop and awareness raising programme provides an opportunity for elected members to explore equalities issues likely affected by planning decisions.

Sustainability impact

8.1 This report has no adverse sustainability issues.

Consultation and engagement

9.1 Themes for workshops and awareness raising sessions that have been suggested by members have been incorporated in to the programme.

Background reading/external references

None.

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Links

Coalition pledges	<p>P8 Make sure the city's people are well-housed, including encouraging developers to built residential communities, starting with brownfield sites</p> <p>P17 Continue efforts to develop the city's gap sites and encourage regeneration</p> <p>P40 Work with Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and other stakeholders to conserve the city's built heritage</p>
Council outcomes	<p>CO7 Edinburgh draws in new investment in development and regeneration</p> <p>CO8 Edinburgh's economy creates and sustains job opportunities</p> <p>CO16 Well-housed – People live in a good quality home that is affordable and meets their needs in a well-managed neighbourhood</p> <p>CO19 Attractive Places and Well Maintained – Edinburgh remains an attractive city through the development of high quality buildings and places and the delivery of high standards and maintenance of infrastructure and public realm</p>
Single Outcome Agreement	<p>SO1 Edinburgh's economy delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all</p>

Appendices

SO2 Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health

SO4 Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric

Appendix 1: Proposed dates for the Planning Committee workshop and awareness raising programme.

Appendix 1

Proposed Dates For The Planning Committee Workshop And Awareness Raising Programme

August 2015 – July 2016

Committee Awareness Raising – 1 Hour:

- 07 October 2015 - Air Quality
- 02 December 2015 - Effective Housing Land Supply
- 10 February 2016 -CACAs
- 09 March 2016 - Community Engagement
- 25 May 2016 - tbc

Committee Workshops – 2 Hours:

- 03 September 2015 – to be used for committee tour
- 05 November 2015 - Infrastructure
- 21 January 2016 - tbc
- 14 April 2016 - tbc
- 16 June 2016 – to be used for committee tour

Committee Tours:

- 3 September 2015 – Recently Completed Developments and Placemaking
- 16 June 2016