

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE

Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee

DATE

12 January 2010

LEAD HEAD OF SERVICE

Dr Margaret Bochel

DIRECTOR

Gordon McIntosh

TITLE OF REPORT Design Review Process

REPORT NUMBER: EPI/10/012

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Committee of the Design Review Panel Process.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 That committee agrees output from the Design Review document will form additional material considerations in determining Planning Applications.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The financial implications of the proposal are limited but any cost can be met within the existing Design Campaign Budget.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

4.1 This initiative will contribute to better development layouts and design to make developments inclusive, safer, sustainable and ensure neighborhood planning.

4.2 Design Review relates to Single Outcome Agreement 10: We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need. 12: We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations. 14: We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production. 15: Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

4.3 An Equalities & Human Rights Impact Assessment is currently being undertaken, the results of which will be presented with the final report.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The legal implications of the Design Review Panel relate to confidentiality and potential conflicts of interest. These are addressed in the report and accompanying appendices.

6. REPORT

The Design Review Panel

- 6.1 The Design review process is part of Aberdeen City's Design Campaign and is included within the Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan 2009, as a way of meeting the target of improving design standards in the city region. The Design Review Panel will provide advice on design issues of masterplans and significant developments. Output would be in the form of a report sent to the project team within 10 working days of the meeting. It should be noted that if the proposal is pre-application the meeting and report would be subject to confidentiality procedure similar to other pre-application discussions.
- 6.2 The Design Review Panel aims to provide constructive and objective advice at an early stage in the planning process. The advice given will draw on professional knowledge and experience within a local context, offering the opportunity for comprehensive comments on development proposals.
- 6.3 The panel will be made up of a chair (the local authority Head of Service), a Design Review Manager and an Administrative Assistant. The panel itself will be made up of approximately 6 members selected from a larger pool of about 20. The panel will consist of representatives from a number of organisations including Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, Landscape Institute Scotland, Architecture and Design Scotland, and Robert Gordon University. The panel members' backgrounds will include relevant areas of knowledge such as Architecture, Landscape, Urban Design, Public Art, Community Engagement, Planning and Infrastructure.
- 6.4 The Design Review panel will consider a range of schemes that are significant because of size, impact, public interest, location or the setting of new standards for the future. It is likely that the developments for consideration will fall under the major application process criteria.
- 6.5 It is planned that meetings will take place once a month (excluding July and December) and will consider between one and three proposals at each session. The meeting dates and venues will be allocated at the start of the year and used as required.
- 6.6 A number of meetings have been held in relation to the proposed Review Panel and positive feedback has been received from the planning authority, Architecture + Design Scotland, the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, the Royal Town Plan Institute, Landscape Institute for Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Robert Gordon University. Some sections of the process have been amended as a result of comments received. Letters are currently being drafted for dissemination to consultants, architects, community councils, stakeholders and interest groups to advise them of the panel and the process.

- 6.7 It is expected that the panel will be up and running by April 2010 with a review of the process, panel and comments taking place after 6 months. A subsequent report will be presented to committee once the review has been carried out to provide an update.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Refer to any sources used in the writing of your report. Please note that it is a statutory requirement that any papers that are listed must be made available to the public on request.

Design Review Panel (Draft) December 2009

Design Review Panel Legal Dec 2009

Design Review Panel Roles and Responsibilities Dec 2009

Design Review Panel Protocol Dec 2009