
PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF PLANNING TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

1. INTRODUCTION

Over the past 3 years a series of short training sessions (or workshops) has been delivered for all elected Members with an aim to improve knowledge of the planning system universally. The training has usually taken place in the hour before the Planning, Protective Services and Licencing Committee (PPSLC).

A wide range of topics have been covered to date and there has been a focus on the legislative and policy framework within which planning operates and the procedural aspects of the quasi-judicial decision-making process. The workshops have been generally well received and the perception from officers and Members alike is that they 'add value' to the planning process as well as the overall success of the PPSLC. It is understood that other Council Committees are now adopting similar workshop style development opportunities. In 2015 we also took the workshops 'on the road' to reflect upon some previous planning decisions with a study / walking tour of Campbeltown. Visiting development on the ground should strengthen the Committee's understanding on how their decisions effect communities, the built environment and contribute to 'Place Making'. We seek to convene further 'place visits' in 2016.

This report seeks the endorsement of the workshop programme and recommends extending it in 2016.

This report suggests a programme of topics for the year which includes issues previously identified and held over from 2015 as well as additional subjects. As the programme is intended to address areas in which Members feel they might benefit from additional training to provide better understanding of the planning process, any suggestions for the inclusion of particular topics beyond those identified below would be welcome.

Given the success of the format to date, it is intended to continue delivering training primarily by way of 'bite sized' sessions associated with the PPSL calendar of meetings. However, some topics necessarily require more in depth attention in which case it would be intended to deliver these by way of separate half day sessions.

As before, it would not be intended to restrict the availability of training to the PPSL Committee membership, so there would be an open invitation to all Council Members to attend any of the sessions.

2. SUGGESTED PROGRAMME FOR 2016

Date	Committee day training	Half day workshop	Visit
February 2016	Introduction to Cumulative Assessment of on shore wind turbines – LUC Study (Mark Lodge)		
March 2016	Introductions to Charrettes and its integration with Planning (Sybil Johnson)		
April 2016	Affordable Housing (Mark Lodge / Sandra Davies)		Visit Helensburgh – CHORD, Dunbritton Housing
May 2016	PPSL Members to inform		
June 2016	Call for Sites Consultation / LDP – the process (Sybil Johnson)		
August 2016		Roads design, aligning consents, roads development guides (Ross McLaughlin + Kevin McIntosh)	
September 2016	Historic Environment Presentation (HES & Lynda)		
October 2016	Local Review Bodies (Charles)		
November 2016	Flooding (Arthur McCulloch / David Cameron)		
December 2016	PPSL Members to inform		

3. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- i) Agree to continuing an ongoing programme of planning related training for Members of the PPSL Committee, which should also be open to any other Members not currently involved in planning decision-making;

- ii) Endorse the initial subject areas for training and the provisional dates for delivery, on the understanding that the programme may be varied to take account of any additional training requirements Members may wish to identify, along with any other particular training needs identified by officers as a consequence of matters emerging during the course of the year.

3. IMPLICATIONS

3.1	Policy	Nil
3.2	Financial	It is considered that the level of training required can be delivered internally from existing resources with assistance as necessary from external partners at no cost, without recourse to having to buy in training from external providers.
3.3	Personnel	Nil
3.4	Equalities Impact Assessment	Nil
3.5	Legal	Nil

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Date: 29th January 2016

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