

Item 4

12th March 2019



Glasgow City Council

**Neighbourhoods, Housing and Public
Realm City Policy Committee**

**Report by Executive Director of Regeneration and the
Economy**

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The Glasgow Planning Charter

Purpose of Report:

To advise Members of the preparation and publication of the Glasgow Planning Charter.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee:

1. Considers the contents of the report;
2. Considers the publication of the Glasgow Planning Charter.

Ward No(s): All

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Planning system in Scotland is used to make decisions about the future development and use of land and buildings in our communities. In doing so it seeks to balance competing demands to ensure land is used and developed in the public's long term interest.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise and update the Committee on the preparation and publication of the [Glasgow Planning Charter](#), the objective of which is to encourage the engagement of the public in the Planning system.
- 1.3 The Planning system is progressing through a significant period of change brought about by an independent review of the system produced in 2016. The Review considered how legislation informed the process, outcomes and opportunities the Planning System presents and how these could be improved. A key element to emerge in the review was the engagement of communities and their ability and scope to influence the planning process within their local areas.
- 1.4 The review has informed the production of a Planning Bill produced in 2018 which has just concluded Stage 2 in the Scottish Parliament and has been the subject of an unprecedented level of revisions and proposed review while being considered by MSP's. This has seen many of the initial ideas from the Planning Review altered, revised or replaced, however, one element that remains central to the progression of the Bill has been how to promote better community engagement.
- 1.5 At the heart of the drive to improve engagement is the need to "front-load" how communities and stakeholders can influence and inform emerging planning strategies, developments or Plans. This emphasis became more important during the processing of the Bill through Parliament when Third Party Rights of Appeal was voted against and therefore removed from the draft Bill (albeit there is scope to reintroduce such an item in the third stage). As the Bill progresses greater clarity will emerge in how this and all other matters are to be resolved, however, it is clear that the improvement of engagement will remain a key area of focus.
- 1.6 The Charter is a key statement produced in response to the move towards enhanced and earlier engagement which sets out how the Council will adopt a "front-loaded" engagement approach to ensure the ambitions and aims of Communities are recognised and used to inform the Planning Process in Glasgow.

2 The Planning Charter

- 2.1 The engagement of members of the public provides accountability and robustness to the Planning processes and it is recognised, both in the City Development Plan, and more broadly that the involvement of communities in key stages of the Planning System will lead to more sustainable and successful

outcomes. The Glasgow Planning Charter is designed to provide the clear basis for community involvement in the Planning system to enable communities to effectively engage in the process that will affect and shape their areas. The Charter is intended to also assist developers in encouraging and promoting meaningful community engagement in relation to proposed developments which will affect communities.

- 2.2 The [Glasgow Planning Charter](#) provides a response to the emerging priority for front loading engagement from the draft Planning Bill described above but is also a recognition of the benefits to be realised from engaging when proposals or strategies are at the earliest stages.
- 2.3 The Charter explains the role of stakeholders in the Planning process and highlights the interaction between communities, in particular Community Councils, and the Council as Planning Authority. It outlines the three key streams of the Planning Service (Development Planning, Development Management and Planning Enforcement) and outlines what commitments the Council makes towards engagement through each of these elements that residents and communities may find themselves engaged in.
- 2.4 The Glasgow Planning Charter will sit alongside the Planning Enforcement Charter and the [Building Standards and Public Safety Customer Charter](#) providing a comprehensive response to customer service across the Planning and Building Standards Service of DRS.
- 2.5 This is the first Charter of its kind that the Council has produced and is one of the first to be prepared in Scotland that covers the breadth of the Planning Service. It is intended to set out how Planning will be proactive in encouraging and facilitating engagement and reflects the emphasis being given to enhanced engagement locally and nationally. However, it is also intentionally proportionate to the scale of physical and staff resources available within the Planning Service and has deliberately sought to set commitments that are ambitious but also achievable. This approach reflects that the Charter must not reduce credibility or trust in the service by setting unrealistic targets that cannot be achieved.

3 Next Stages

- 3.1 If Committee are satisfied with the approach and content of the Planning Charter it is planned to publish it in hard copy and on the Council's webpage. This will culminate in the introduction of the Charter to an engagement event to which Community Councils and other community stakeholder groups will be invited.
- 3.2 It is anticipated that the Charter will be reviewed every 2 years in line with the review of the [Enforcement Charter](#). This review will ensure the Council are responsive to the views of the community, but will also afford the opportunity to respond to the context emerging through the Planning Bill and adopt or reflect

any revisions that emerge from the eventual Planning Act or the consequential legislation or guidance that emerges.

4 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: No direct financial impacts as a result of the Charter

Legal: No direct Legal impacts.

Personnel: There are no direct personnel implications.

Procurement: No relevant procurement is necessary.

Council Strategic Plan:

In relation to the CSP the Charter supports the theme of A Well Governed City that listens and responds, the outcomes of which are open and transparent decision making and listening and responding to citizens.

This will support in achieve Priority Numbers 92, 94 and 105.

Equality Impacts:

The Charter will have a positive impact upon equality through increased awareness of the opportunities to engage early in the Planning Process.

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-22

While not directly related to CCP, the Charter is consistent with the Empowering Communities Equality Outcome

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

None

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental: Engagement with communities over environmental matters contained in development proposals.

Social: Encourages engagement with the Planning system.

Economic: The Charter assists with engagement of the public with proposals affecting the built environment which supports sustainable economic activity.

Privacy and Data Protection impacts: There are no Privacy or Data Protection Impacts.

5 Recommendations

1. Considers the contents of the report;
2. Considers the publication of the Glasgow Planning Charter.