

Planning Development Programme

The Planning Development Programme is a government-funded initiative that supports the training and development requirements of staff and elected members with planning responsibilities in the 34 Scottish planning authorities, particularly in relation to the planning modernisation agenda.

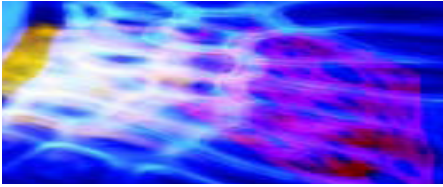
The Programme, which has been running since April 2006, and will continue until March 2011:

- Works with planning authorities to improve internal approaches to learning and development for staff and elected members.
- Provides and supports the provision of a range of learning opportunities linked to identified training and development needs.
- Encourages and supports the creation of opportunities for sharing knowledge, experience and expertise with and between planning authorities and other relevant organisations.

Significant investment has been made in developing resources, for use within and by planning authorities, and running events and activities on planning related topics. The main areas covered include:

- Effective community engagement
- Designing streets
- Developer contributions
- Development viability
- Managing and leading change
- Negotiation, mediation and influencing
- Processing major planning applications
- Neighbour notification
- Design principles
- Design policies
- Design statements
- Retail capacity & impact assessment
- Sustainability, land use and the role of the planning system
- Energy efficiency and LZCD
- Sustainable buildings and places
- Local Development Plan examinations
- Main Issues Reports

These are delivered in-house for individual authorities, to multi-authority audiences (on a regional or topical basis) or via a combined approach. Events and activities can be mixed and refined to meet local needs and priorities. As well as the technical and professional expertise and resources that are available, the events afford a



valuable opportunity for peer review and learning by sharing experiences and expertise.

Grant support is also available to planning authorities:

- For local learning events, where authorities are organising training events for their staff and/ or elected members.
- For access to existing learning opportunities targeted mainly at remoter authorities with significant travel costs and authorities with severe budgetary constraints limiting access to training.
- For officers undertaking accredited planning qualifications with sponsorship from their employing authority.

In addition, specific materials and events are available for elected members including:

- An introduction to planning for elected members.
- A workshop on decision making which covers issues including material considerations and the role of the development plan and a workshop on development issues covering developer contributions and planning gain and discussions with developers and communities.

The Programme has published a series of guides and case studies

which are available on the website:

- A guide to Managing Staff Training and Development targeted at managers of planning services. The purpose of the guide is to provide practical advice and information on staff training and development based on current good practice.
- A short advice note on Sourcing Training and Development Solutions.
- Case studies on the approach taken by Scottish planning authorities on student placements and Graduate training and development.

A partnership between the key agencies and the Planning Development Programme has been established in order to address training development needs, help build local capacity to support on-going professional and technical development, identify opportunities for collaborative development and share knowledge, resources and ideas.

The Improvement Service has been working with Scottish Government, Heads of Planning, and the key agencies to identify and highlight examples of good planning practice. These have been made into case studies so that good planning practice can be shared.

In order for planners to identify

events that are most relevant to their training needs the Planning Development Programme has produced a calendar detailing many planning events from different organisations. Available at this link:

www.improvementservice.org.uk/events/planning-development/

Information about the Planning Development Programme and forthcoming events is available on the IS Website, or, alternatively, by contacting:

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