

Community Empowerment – implications for planning and property

9.50am – 4.00pm, Tuesday 24 October 2017
PAS, 125 Princes Street, Edinburgh

Community empowerment and inclusive growth is a key Scottish Government priority which is embedded in the 2015 Community Empowerment Act and the 2016 Land Reform Act.

Community empowerment is also a cornerstone of the current programme of planning reform, as it seeks to achieve an alignment and closer integration of spatial planning with community planning. The link between community planning and spatial planning is likely to become a statutory requirement in the forthcoming Planning Bill, as is the introduction of local place plans.

There is already a wealth of experience of empowerment within community development, particularly in rural areas. However, the implications of the new legislation for planning and property professionals, particularly in the public sector and as it applies to urban areas, are not always well understood. Similarly, the closer link being forged between community empowerment/community planning and spatial planning through planning reform will have important implications for the planning and property sectors and requires greater clarity.

This Conference focuses on those aspects of current and anticipated future legislation that will have a particular impact on the built environment - and in particular on:

- **Extension of the community right to buy to urban areas**
- **Asset transfer requests**
- **Aligning community planning and spatial planning through a statutory link**
- **Incorporation of community-led local place plans into the local development plan**

Whereas earlier land reform initiatives focused almost exclusively on rural areas, the latest round of land reform, community empowerment and community engagement measures provide a greater focus for urban areas, a platform for urban regeneration and for tackling inequality. Against this background the Conference will focus on the exchange of information, existing, emerging and proposed practice, and through the use of case studies, will look at the issues that arise for built environment practitioners and how these have been tackled so far.

Our aim is to increase understanding and awareness of what community empowerment means for planning, estates management, regeneration and local economic development, and how implementation is likely to unfold in the future.

Our hope is that people will leave the event better informed about the opportunities that community empowerment offers, and how these can best be taken forward by communities and local authorities working together.

Agenda

09:30 Registration

09:50 **Chair's Welcome and Introduction**
Petra Biberbach, Chief Executive, PAS

10:00 **Community Empowerment Legislation - An Overview of Progress to Date**
Malcolm Cowie, Community Empowerment Team, Scottish Government
A summary of progress to date with introducing the different parts of the Community Empowerment Act and the Scottish Government's continuing programme for enactment.

10:15 Questions and answering

10:25 **Community Right to Buy - The Process**
Lindsay Chalmers, Development Manager, Community Land Scotland
A look at how Community Right to Buy has been used to date; what the impact of the 2016 extension to urban areas has been and how the planned extension to Community Right to Buy for abandoned, neglected or detrimental land could be used by communities.

10:45 Questions and answering

10:55 Refreshments

11:15 **Asset Transfer - From Policy to Practice**
Linda Gillespie, Programme Manager, The Community Ownership Support Service
From community centres to town halls, football pitches, piers and harbours communities across Scotland are exercising their new right to request to manage, lease or transfer ownership of publicly owned assets. This presentation will go through the process of asset transfer, highlighting good practice and examples of where communities are using assets to deliver key services and contributing to the regeneration of their areas.

11:35 Questions and answering

11:45 **Linking Community Planning with Spatial Planning - Knitting it Together - A Local Authority Experience**
Neale McIlvanney, Strategic Planning Manager, North Ayrshire Council
The Council's journey towards using locality-based planning to achieve better outcomes for communities. Includes use of the place standard to frame locality priorities and development sites to feature in the Local Development Plan. The process and close relationship between the Community Planning Partnership and LDP is providing a robust platform to consult equitably throughout the Council area.

12:05 Questions and answering

12:20 Lunch

The afternoon comprises case studies illustrating practice and experience - highlighting what is happening on the ground - what's working well, how it works and how it works for community groups and local authorities.

13:15 Action Porty - the Journey so Far

Kyrsta Macdonald-Scott and Ian Cooke, *Directors, Action Porty*

The story of the first urban community buy out under the extension of the Community Right to Buy to urban areas. Action Porty is developing Portobello Old Parish Church buildings into a new community hub.

13:45 Asset Transfer, Community Led Action Plans and Placemaking

Angela Graham, *Senior Estates Surveyor, East Ayrshire Council*; **John Semple**, *Regeneration Project Officer, East Ayrshire Council*

Sharing experience from an estates and planning perspective. EAC has handled over 170 requests for asset transfer and approved 44 of these. The council area has 18 active community led action plans and is embarking on integrating these and developing plans with a placemaking programme for 30 settlements over the next 3 years. The session will look at experience, practicalities and problems of doing this.

14:30 Refreshments

14:45 Models for Local Place Plans?

Nick Wright, *Nick Wright Planning*

The Scottish Government proposes to introduce "Local Place Plans" as part of a new planning system. What might these look like? Using real examples, this session will look at a range of potential models that already exist, such as Community Action Plans and Neighbourhood Plans.

15:15 Ensuring Community Empowerment through the Design Process

Alisdair Clements, *Director, Inch Architecture*

Supporting a Community Development Trust in a journey to create a much needed Community Hub, through subjective site analysis and assessment of risk.

15:45 Plenary Discussion

16:00 Close of Conference

Who should attend?

This event will be of value to planners, estates/property people, and community planning practitioners particularly in local government. It will also be of relevance to community groups and other organisations and individuals involved with Community Empowerment.

Cost to attend:

Local authorities, private companies	£80
Community groups, individuals, third sector organisations	£40

Where: PAS, 125 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4AD

When: 9.50am - 4.00pm, Tuesday 24 October 2017

For further information or to make a booking, please contact Joyce Hartley (07896 058343
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