

NAJ/IP/MC/jl

6 December 2013

Dear Community Council

The Edinburgh Planning Concordat 2013

On 7 August 2013, the Planning Committee of the City of Edinburgh Council approved the [Edinburgh Planning Concordat 2013](#). This is a tripartite agreement produced as a result of extensive discussions with the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils. It promotes a collaborative approach to major developments in our City with increased consultation and engagement at the heart of it.

Importantly, the Concordat gives a commitment to provide assistance to community councils to seek the wider community's views. I am now in a position to update you on this.

Sign up to the New Concordat

You may remember that last May we consulted you on the draft Concordat and the feedback from that was very useful in putting the final document together. **We are now asking you if you would like to formally sign up to the new Concordat.** A copy is attached. This is completely optional and you are under no obligation to do so. However, signing up gives a public commitment to working constructively with developers just as the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and our planners have given such a commitment to fully consult and engage with you. This does not mean you have to accept development in your area but engage at all stages. You will still be eligible for grant assistance even if you do not sign.

If you would like to formally sign up, there are two ways of doing so:-

1. Email Jo-Anne.laidlaw@edinburgh.gov.uk confirming your agreement to sign up to the Concordat.
2. Sign the attached form and return to Jo-Anne Laidlaw at

Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street
EDINBURGH EH8 8BG

Planning Concordat Engagement Fund

On 24 September 2013, the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee formally agreed the operation of the new fund to help community councils fully engage with their communities at the pre-application stage on major planning applications. This is in line with the Edinburgh Planning Concordat and we have decided to call it the Planning Concordat Engagement Fund. The money will come from the Planning budget but as with any fund, the Council must make sure any monies are properly agreed and mechanisms are in place for auditing. The scheme will be administered by the Neighbourhood Teams to ensure such processes are robust.

We are now ready to implement the operation of the fund and I have attached criteria, guidance and application forms for your use. The new fund recognises the importance of community councils in shaping how new development affects their area and gathering the wider community's views is part of this process.

New Community Councils – Planning Spokespersons

If you have a new planning spokesperson, please inform Jo-Anne Laidlaw at Jo-Anne.laidlaw@edinburgh.gov.uk so we can update our database.

We look forward to receiving your agreement but if you would like to discuss any aspect of it, please contact me on 0131 529 3916 or email me at nancy.jamieson@edinburgh.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

Maureen M. Child

Maureen Child
Convener
Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee



Ian Perry
Convener
Planning Committee

Enc:
Response form
Edinburgh Planning Concordat
Application forms and guidance