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**CENTRAL ELGIN REGENERATION: PUBLIC DESIGN CHARRETTE**

**BRIEFING NOTE 1**

The Scottish Government has selected Central Elgin for a major design charrette, through their Charrette Mainstreaming Programme 2014-15. The fundamental aim is to involve local residents, business and stakeholders in planning the future of Central Elgin. **A charrette is an** **intensive consultation that engages local people in the design of their community**.

Moray Council on behalf of the Moray Economic Partnership is sponsoring the charrette and a design team led by Austin-Smith:Lord LLP (urban designers & architects) and Douglas Wheeler Associates Ltd (economic regeneration specialists) with Ryden (property consultants) and Transport Planning Ltd has been commissioned to facilitate the charrette. Planning and design workshops will be held in St Giles Church over a four day period running from the **2nd- 5th March 2015** when the local community, designers and specialists will be working together, ‘hands on’, to prepare a long term vision, development framework and action plan for the Lossie Green and Cooper Park area, with the ideas translated into plans and drawings. The Public Design Charrette follows on from the [‘Mini’ Charrette](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_75361.html) that was held in Elgin in March 2014.

The fundamental aim is to prepare a future vision with a **realistic, integrated regeneration masterplan for Central Elgin**. This will establish the priorities for regeneration investment and the character and form of development over the next ten years and ensure the support of local residents, businesses and key stakeholders.

In particular the charrette will:

* Progress the **existing ‘**[**Elgin-City For The Future’ (ECFTF) Masterplan**](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_96870.html) **and principles that were established at the** [**Mini Charrette**](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_75361.html)**.**
* Develop a **shared long-term vision, strategy and masterplan** **for Lossie Green and Cooper Park** and establish a commitment from the local community, businesses and stakeholders to delivering the changes required to achieve the vision.
* **Identify mixed residential, leisure, cultural, office and retail proposals** for the different Central Area development sites and a transport strategy that is set in the national, local planning and economic development context.
* Prepare **‘place-making illustrations’** including a clear plan and sites schedule that highlight the potential for a **vibrant place** where people will live, work, shop and socialise and that will integrate Lossie Green with the rest of the City Centre and Cooper Park.
* Establish an agreed **integrated regeneration masterplan** and action plan for turning the outputs from the charrette into **viable development briefs that can be used to market specific opportunities**.
* Test the **feasibility of the emerging proposals** by taking account of the property market and financial climate.

The **charrette outputs** will be both inspirational as well as being pragmatic and viable and based on sound financial analysis and community support.

In preparation for the March event and to finalise details, the Austin-Smith: Lord/ Douglas Wheeler Associates team will be arranging discussions in Elgin during January. In the weeks before the charrette, **WAVE*particle* who specialise in developing and delivering effective community engagement** will be in the area using different ways to make contact with Moray College/UHI, Elgin Academy and Elgin High School students and the wider community. More details will be available later in January.

Planning the future of Central Elgin requires ideas from everybody in the community: young, old, residents and businesses who know the city centre.

Cllr John Cowe, Chair of the Moray Economic Partnership *‘****The design team would like to hear from you.*** *Y****our views, at this early stage, will make a difference and play a key part in the future of Central Elgin’*.**

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You can also follow news & updates at [www.moray.gov.uk/CentralElginRegeneration](http://www.moray.gov.uk/CentralElginRegeneration)

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