



CENTRAL ELGIN REGENERATION: PUBLIC DESIGN CHARRETTE FINAL PRESENTATION: SUMMARY OF EMERGING THEMES:

Late last year, the Scottish Government selected Elgin for a major design charrette, through their Charrette Mainstreaming Programme 2014-15. The Moray Council, on behalf of the Moray Economic Partnership, hosted the charrette and the planning and design workshops were held in **St Giles Church** over a four day period running from **2 - 5 March 2015**. A charrette is an intensive consultation that engages local people in the design of their community. 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 facilitated the charrette.

Directly involving local residents, young people, business and stakeholders in planning the future of Central Elgin was a fundamental aim of the charrette. Before and during the events more than **400 local residents, business and students were involved**, working together, 'hands on' with the design team to prepare a long term vision, development framework and action plan for Central Elgin. The ideas have been translated into plans and drawings and **Final Presentations were held on Thursday 19 March**.

The fundamental aim was to prepare a future vision with a **realistic, integrated regeneration masterplan for Central Elgin**. The overarching issues emerging from the four days were the importance of

- Investing in the City Centre: place-mending in the historic core
- Redefining Cooper Park
- Taking advantage of place-making opportunities at Lossie Green
- Binding and connecting the main areas together: City Centre, Lossie Green and Cooper Park

The development framework plan includes three components:

1. Investing In Placemaking Infrastructure: Sites & Buildings

- St Giles, Town Hall & Grant Lodge
- adapting vacant and underused properties to bring them back into viable uses
- diversifying City Centre uses: live, work and leisure space
- new mixed use development on Lossie Green
- investing in the creative lighting of landmark buildings and routes

2. Greenspace: Health, Wellbeing & Active Living

- focussing on Cooper Park + River Lossie corridor
- investing in the Community Sports Hub

3. Making Connections: Transport & Access

- connecting Cooper Park, Lossie Green and City Centre
- linking key destinations (e.g. Cathedral, Grant Lodge, Town Hall)

- tackling barriers: road, river & rail
- promoting cycling and a walking friendly place
- better managing parking.

The Action Plan includes seventeen specific projects organised in three integrated programmes:

- City Centre: Diversifying Uses
- Arts Culture & Creativity: Community & Visitor Economy
- Community Health & Wellbeing: Promoting Third Sector

Cllr John Cowe, Chair of the Moray Economic Partnership said:

‘The vision, development framework and action plan that has emerged from the charrette will help establish the priorities for regeneration investment and the character and form of development in Central Elgin over the next ten years. The impressive community wide involvement during the process will help to ensure the future support of local residents, businesses and other key stakeholders as proposals progress.’

A Final Report will be presented to Moray Council/Moray Economic Partnership in August.

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You can also follow news & updates at www.moray.gov.uk/CentralElginRegeneration & on Twitter [@centralelgincharrette](https://twitter.com/centralelgincharrette)

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