

Streamlining Planning Assessments: Project update – August 8, 2014

Following the May 2014 stakeholder seminar, the Scottish Government has undertaken to provide regular updates on this project through our online webpage, the Scottish Government e-alert system, and via this project newsletter. You are receiving this email because you have previously expressed an interest in the project, however if you no longer have an interest please let us know.

Project update

Testing of the two Change Ideas is now underway in South Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire planning authorities.

The first test-cycle applied the change ideas to a retrospective case study in each planning authority area. It sought to establish whether, and to what extent the Summary Template and Guiding Principles helped to meet the project aims from the perspective of the planning officer, and resulted in small changes to both documents.

A second test cycle is now underway to test the summary template and guiding principles in the live environment on certain planning applications as they come forward. Initially this stage of the testing process will focus on further refining these change ideas from a planning officer's perspective, thereafter we will gradually expand the test process to capture input from wider stakeholders.

What can I do to assist?

If you are about to engage with assessments submitted in connection with a planning application in either South Ayrshire or South Lanarkshire you may be asked to participate in the testing process.

In the meantime, we are inviting our 'Change Champions' [including Key Agencies and Consultants] to:

- Disseminate information on the project within your organisations
- Support work in South Lanarkshire and South Ayrshire, where applicable, to test the [Guiding Principles](#) and [Summary template](#)
- Contact the Scottish Government with any future Change Ideas
- Contact the Scottish Government to discuss any existing case studies or examples of good practice which you consider contribute to the project aims.

For more information on the project please contact either cara.davidson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or simon.pallant@scotland.gsi.gov.uk