

Making Better Places: Design Advice

Your local authority may ask Architecture and Design Scotland to provide advice. This usually happens when there are:

- proposals for major new housing schemes
- significant infrastructure projects
- public investment – for example schools or health buildings

Architecture and Design Scotland is invited to support dialogue and collaboration.

Our job, as a national public body, is to promote good architecture and sustainable design. We work by voluntary agreement with planning officers, clients and project teams.

How do we work?

We run a series of workshops with those who make decisions or influence the design and planning of the development. We provide skills from a panel of professionals and specialist staff.

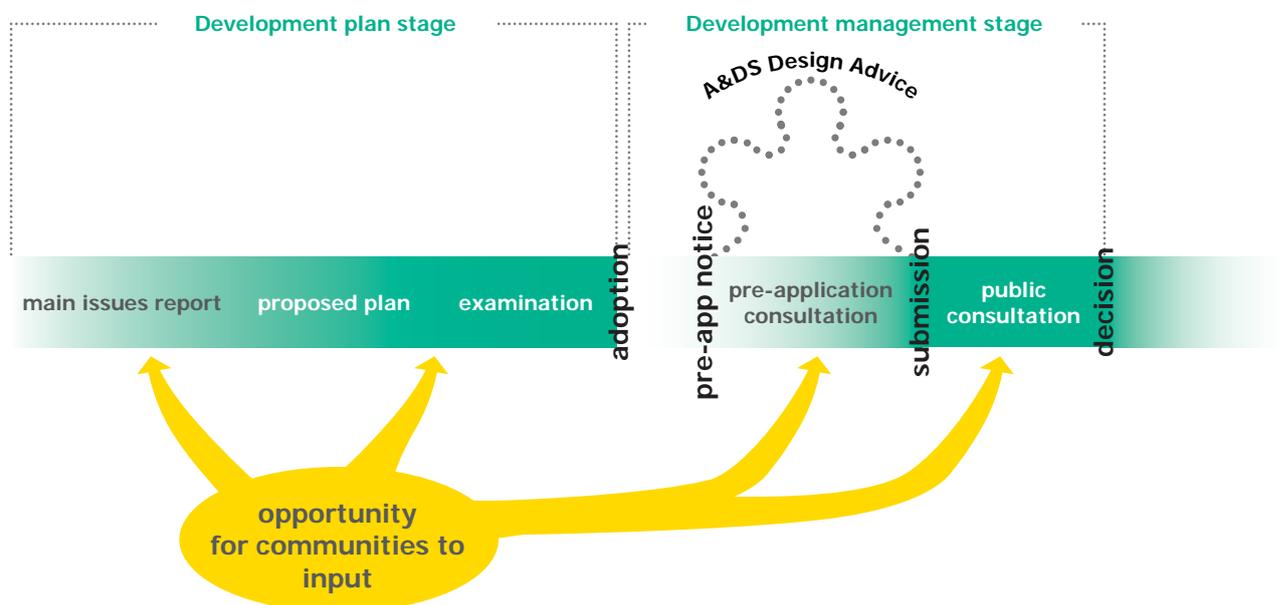
In the workshops we:

- help parties establish shared aims for a site
- share what works in other places and projects
- work towards building better places
- help assess the design at the final stage

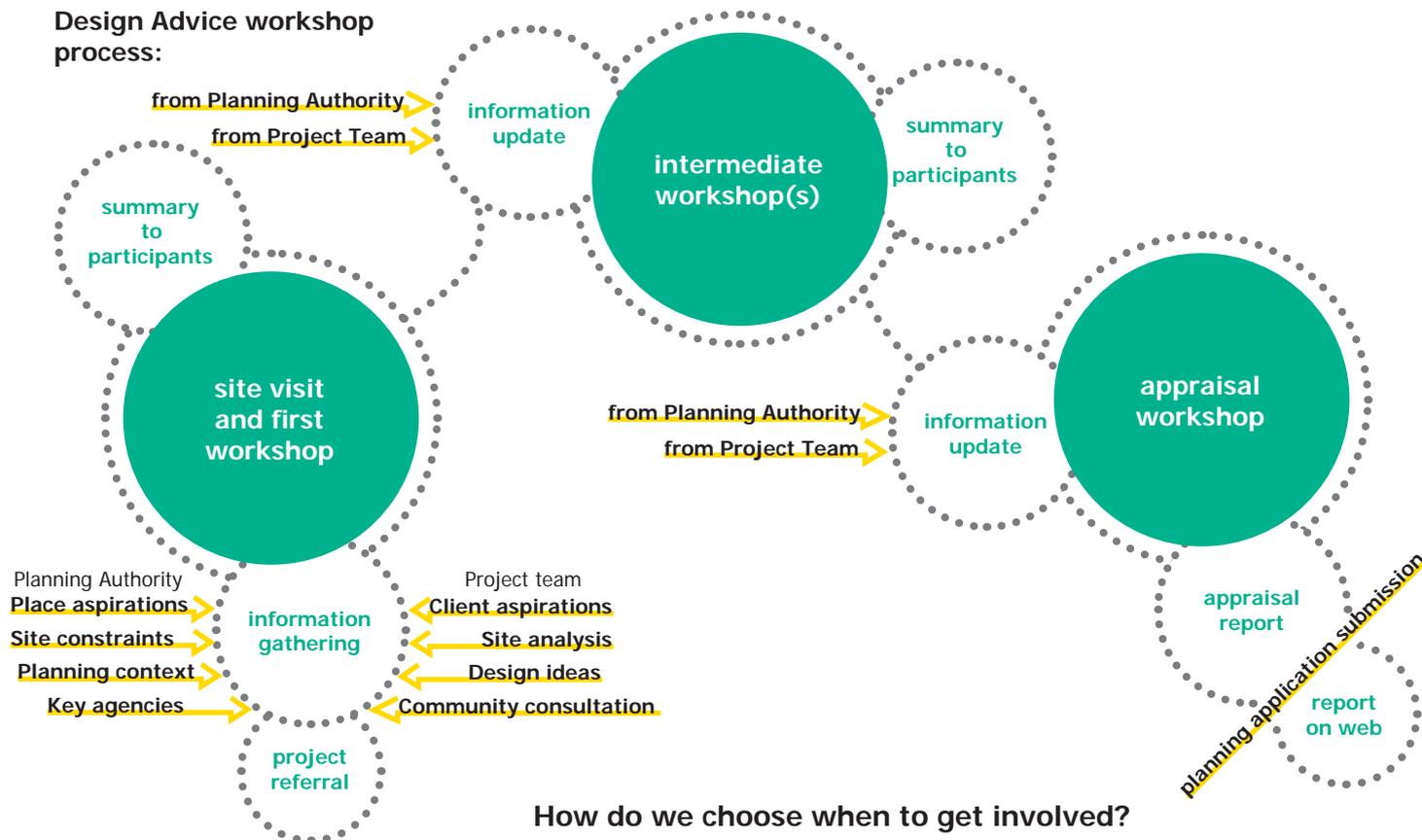
This process delivers real improvement to proposals by the common effort of those taking part.

“A Guide to the Planning System in Scotland” is available on the Scottish Governments website: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2009/08/11133705/1>

How A&DS Design Advice fits in to the planning process:



Design Advice workshop process:



How do we choose when to get involved?

- Projects are referred to us by the Local Authority or project team.
- We engage with proposals where the principle of development has been established through the Local Development Plan.
- We aim to get in as early as possible.
- We look at the potential impact of the project on the nature of the local area and the sense of place. This is different from place to place.
- We look at the potential to learn and share lessons from the project.

You can find out more information on our website, including:

- The essential qualities that make good places
- Information to help you respond to consultations
- Appraisal reports we have submitted to local authorities at the point of planning application submission
- More information about A&DS and our work

How do we make sure we understand the place?

We ask the project team and the planning authority for information. The first workshop always involves a site visit. The planning authority shares place aspirations shaped by the development plan process. We draw on the public pre-application consultation to access knowledge and understanding of the local community, and ask for a full report of this. We encourage everyone to engage fully with the pre-application consultation.

What do the workshops cover?

A&DS promotes design that works for the common good of existing and new communities. We look at maximising the benefit of development to the place as a whole. We look at how it will feel to be in the place. How can the proposal make best use of existing features or create new ones? We aim for and encourage better developments, regardless of the starting point.

Following each workshop we share a written note with the project team and the planning authority. Before planning application we write an Appraisal Report. This report sets out how successful we believe the project will be in meeting the project aims and national standards.

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