

# Glasgow Urban Design Panel

## Feedback Report

**Date:** 21st February 2019

**Project:** Scottish Events Conference

**Planning Status:** Planning in Principle submitted

**Presentation by:** Keppie (Architect)

### Panel Consensus

- The project was considered by the panel to be of national significance and as such the architectural response should be reflective of this.
- The panel noted the extent of the red line boundary appeared to be limiting the potential of the project, and that the enhancement of the SEC complex has the potential to have a much greater impact on the city.
- It was observed by the panel that the SEC has existed as an 'urban bubble' between the River Clyde and the Clydeside Expressway, and that the current proposals do little to change this situation, including access from the north via the walkway from Exhibition Centre Station, and west. The SEC has the potential to act as a major focal point in the city drawing together the areas to the north and south. It was considered that development itself was only one half of the story, and that the response from the city in terms of planning was equally important in realising this.
- The project has the potential to enhance and create an improved river edge and eastern boundary condition. It was accepted by the panel that the project is at a conceptual stage, and that through the further development of the proposals the placement and form of the hotel element, aspects of sustainability and format of parking should be carefully considered to maximise the available opportunities and ensure permeability and access to the river edge.
- The panel was advised that a Steering Group had been established to coordinate the opportunities between the city and SEC. The panel would like to confirm the importance of the role of the Steering Group.
- The issue of flooding and climate change will have a major impact on all projects along the river, and solutions will require to be carefully considered to respond to this issue.

## Panel Recommendations

- The design team should continue to develop the project to evolve a more confident urban and architectural language.
- Consideration should be given as to how the development contributes to Glasgow as a world-class city, and in turn to Scotland as a world-class nation. How does the SEC, as a success story for the river, become a success story for the city and nation?
- The project should address the SDF, in particular the SEC & Media Quarter 'River Room'.
- Consideration should be given to the improvement of transport nodes including the rail stations at Exhibition Centre, Anderston and Glasgow Central Low-level to create a more inviting experience. It is acknowledged this is not something that can be necessarily influenced by the design team on this project.
- The Steering Group is seen as vital in coordinating and developing the input from the various stakeholders and designers, in particular the points of arrival to the SEC complex including arrival from the east via the walkway from Exhibition Centre Station.
- The river should be considered as a vital ingredient of the project, and consideration given to whether it should be included in each and every visualisation on an ongoing basis.
- Consideration should be given as to how the proposals will enhance the development of the river.
- Greater consideration requires to be given to the area outside the ownership boundary, and how the project can act as a focal point for the city. It was suggested a visioning drawing should be prepared as a statement of intent.
- Environmental consideration should be given to the layout of the buildings and the public space.
- The opportunity should be taken to review the renewable potential from the Clyde and onsite; the client's requirements for natural daylighting and a new energy centre to investigate the potential to create a world-class green conference centre.