

**REVIEW OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUBLICISING AND DETERMINING
PLANNING APPLICATIONS - UPDATE REPORT**

<u>Report of the:</u>	Head of Place Development
<u>Contact:</u>	Mark Berry
<u>Urgent Decision?(yes/no)</u>	No
<u>If yes, reason urgent decision required:</u>	
<u>Annexes/Appendices (attached):</u>	<u>Annexe 1 - Progress schedule – March 2017</u>
<u>Other available papers (not attached):</u>	<u>Report of the Scrutiny Review Task Group on the Administrative Arrangements for Publicising and Determining Planning Applications – April 2016.</u>

REPORT SUMMARY

This report updates Members on the progress made to-date in implementing the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Task Group on the Administrative Arrangements for Publicising and Determining Planning Applications. It shows that good progress has been made in a number of areas but that there remain a number of key items that have still to be completed. The Committee is recommended to note the report.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

- (1) That the achievements to date and the proposed future implementation timescales be noted.**
- (2) That another update report be brought to the 23 November 2017 meeting of this committee.**

Notes

1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

- 1.1 An effective planning system supports all of the key priorities in the Corporate Plan. The Review and its recommendations will therefore support delivery of that plan.

2 Background

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 February 2015, the Committee agreed that it wished to undertake a review of the administrative arrangements associated with the publication and determination of planning applications during 2015/16.
- 2.2 The Committee agreed the scope of its review in April 2015. It agreed that the investigation should focus on planning administrative processes which supported the publication and determination of validated planning applications, particular reference to be paid to public holiday periods such as Easter and Christmas. Applications concerning telecommunications were included within the scope of the review. Actual planning decisions made or impending were excluded from the review.
- 2.3 The Committee agreed that a task group should be appointed to undertake the investigation. Three Members were appointed in June 2015. Investigation work commenced in October 2015 and a report relaying the results of the investigation was presented to the Committee in April 2016.
- 2.4 That Committee approved that report and noted that a progress update on the implementation of the recommendations contained within the Task Group's report would be presented to a future meeting.
- 2.5 Over the past year, several of the recommendations have been implemented and this report gives the requested up-date on progress.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 On 14 February 2107 the Council formally adopted a new Statement of Community Involvement under the title "Your involvement in planning". This document sets out the Local Planning Authority's approach to engagement and consultation in relation to planning policy and development management issues. Your involvement in planning takes account of many of the recommendations made by the Member Task Group.
- 3.2 The particular points that have been addressed are summarised in the table at Annexe 1.
- 3.3 A number of other recommendations have not yet been completed but most are in-hand (these are also listed in Annexe 1). It is anticipated that the majority (if not all) of the recommendations will have been completed by October 2017 and that a further up-date report to the Committee can be prepared at that time.

4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 The completion of all recommendations by October 2017 is achievable with no additional demand on the agreed budget.

4.2 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report

5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

5.1 The revised Member protocol for Planning and any associated training will be important in enabling the Local Planning Authority to demonstrate that it continues to have proper procedures in place to administer the planning process lawfully and in accordance with the Council's Corporate Values.

5.2 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** No further comments.

6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

6.1 There are no sustainability or community safety implications arising from this report.

7 Partnerships

7.1 The Local Planning Authority's engagement with its partners is intrinsic to a successful planning process. Implementation of the Scrutiny Review Task Group's recommendations will support this.

8 Risk Assessment

8.1 There are no significant risks associated with this report.

9 Conclusion and Recommendations

9.1 The Scrutiny Review Task Group's recommendations of April 2016 are being implemented. Some have been fully implemented whilst further work is required in relation to others and another up-date report on progress will be brought to the 23 November 2017 meeting of this committee.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: (All Wards);