

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

10 JANUARY 2012

SCRUTINY OF THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PEER REVIEW

Purpose of Report

1. To recommend that the Committee forms a Task Group to review the response of the Council to the recent Peer Review of Wiltshire's Planning Service.

Background

2. A small team of elected members and officers from other (peer) local authorities reviewed the Council's planning service 6-8 September, 2011. This exercise took place at the invitation of the Council.
3. As well as meeting various officers and elected members the review team also interviewed Councillors Nigel Carter and Tony Deane on behalf of the scrutiny function.
4. The outcome of the review was published in a bullet point style in mid/late September. The Council then had an opportunity to respond to the initial findings in advance of the more formal report being submitted. Under the leadership of the Service Director and Cabinet member an action plan was developed to respond to the review and this will be the key reference point for any scrutiny activity.
5. In conjunction to this on the 17 November, 2011 – the Organisation and Resources considered the final report of the Section 106 Task Group. Included within the subsequent recommendations was a request to the Environment Select Committee to create a Task Group to monitor the delivery of the Action Plan to emerge from the recent peer review of the Development Control service.

Matters for consideration

6. In advance of the decision of the Committee contact has been made with the members of the S106 Task Group (which has now disbanded) and there has been positive feedback in respect of serving on this new planning related Task Group.

Terms of reference

7. The proposed terms of reference have been kept at a high level to enable the Task Group to prioritise a more detailed programme of work at the initial scoping meeting, where the membership will be introduced to the review outcome and the Council's action plan:-

'To review and support the delivery of Wiltshire Council's response to the September 2011 peer planning review'.

Recommendation

8. The Committee is recommended to form a Task Group to review the Council's response to its recent peer review and to invite an interim report after 3 months of its first meeting.

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