

REVIEW OF PLANNING SERVICES COMMITTEE – PROGRESS REPORT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the arrangements for visits to other Local Authorities, for the organisation of a focus group and on the arrangements for public speaking at the Planning Services Committee.

2 VISITS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- 2.1 As agreed, officers contacted Mid-Suffolk District Council to arrange a visit to their Planning Committee. Unfortunately, it seems Mid-Suffolk is currently reviewing the operation of their Committee and it was not as a result possible to arrange a visit.
- 2.2 Visits have therefore been arranged to East Cambridgeshire District Council on the 15th April and to Brentwood Council on the 12th April.

3 FOCUS GROUP

- 3.1 A research consultancy that previously carried out consultation workshops for the Council into visioning and the community strategy has been approached for views on the possible arrangements for a focus group to discuss the operation of the Planning Services Committee.
- 3.2 A copy of the request to the consultants and their response is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

4 PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL

- 4.1 A draft leaflet explaining the arrangements for public speaking at the Committee is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 4.2 A final draft version of the leaflet can be prepared, subject to Members' approval.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The cost of the focus group exercise will be £4750, and can be covered by the CPA/ Best Value Corporate Budget and Planning Delivery Grant budgets.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) That the arrangements for the site visits to East Cambridgeshire District Council and Brentwood Borough Council be confirmed.

- (2) That, subject to Member comments, the arrangements for the focus group be agreed.
- (3) That the draft public speaking protocol be endorsed by the Sub-Committee.

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Background Papers:-

None.

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