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## **PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING WORKSHOPS**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report outlines arrangements for an annual Planning Workshop for Parish/Town Councils and seeks the Sub-Committee's views on the arrangements for the first Workshop and the matters to be discussed.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2001, Members agreed to the principles of holding a Workshop for Parish/Town Councils to discuss planning matters.
- 2.2 The agreed principles for the Workshops are:
- An annual event
  - Chaired by Chairman of Planning Services
  - Nominated Members in attendance
  - One Parish Member plus the Parish Clerk to attend
  - Focus of the first event to be the Best Value Review of the Development Control and Building Control Services.

### **3 DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 An annual Workshop event with Parish/Town Councils provides an opportunity for discussions with the Local Planning Authority about the planning system and the opportunities.
- 3.2 The Council is currently undertaking a Best Value Review into the delivery of the Development Control and Building Control Services. The focus of any Best Value Review must be the outcomes for customers and, therefore, it was concluded that the first Workshop meeting could provide an important input into the Review from the Parish/Town Council customer perspective.
- 3.3 The detailed arrangements for the first Workshop meeting are being considered and this Partnership Sub-Committee meeting provides an ideal opportunity for comments about those arrangements, but more particularly, about the subject matter to be made known so that a suitable agenda can be prepared for the session. The Best Value review is intended to be the focus and therefore key areas for discussion will be the relationship between the planning authority and the Parish/Town Councils and their role in providing input to the decision-making process. Views on the workshop arrangements and the subject matter will be welcomed.

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**4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The planning system exists to protect the environment for the community.

**5 PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 These annual workshop sessions are intended to enable Parish/Town Councils to discuss the operation of the planning system and Building Control processes and procedures.

**6 RECOMMENDATION**

It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That the arrangements for the workshops be noted and that comments and issues on planning and Building Control matters be incorporated into the agenda for the first session. (HPS)

Shaun Scrutton

Head of Planning Services

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For further information please contact Shaun Scrutton on:-

Tel:- 01702 318100  
E-Mail:- shaun.scrutton@rochford.gov.uk