

## **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 25 January 2005**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **25 January 2005** when there were present:-

Cllr P K Savill (Chairman)  
Cllr P A Capon (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr K H Hudson  
Cllr C A Hungate

Cllr R A Oatham

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs H L A Glynn, Mrs S A Harper, Mrs M A Starke and M G B Starke.

S Scrutton - Head of Planning Services  
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

### **26 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **27 PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT 2005/06**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services outlining the Government's proposals for the distribution of Planning Delivery Grant in 2005/06. Comments on the proposals were required by 28<sup>th</sup> January 2005.

During debate it was noted that, in the event of Local Authorities failing to meet the deadline of 28 March 2005 for submitting their Local Development Scheme, the grant award for plan making would increase proportionately to those Authorities who did meet the deadline.

The calculations for determining levels of grant funding in relation to development control were split into two different elements. The first related to the attainment of performance targets in relation to the processing of planning applications. It was anticipated that the Authority would not receive a grant at the same level as the previous year with respect to this element. The second element related to an improvement in performance between September 2003 and September 2004 and it was likely that the Authority would do reasonably well in this area.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to whether grant allocations were based on numbers of applications that were processed, officers advised that the processing of larger applications was taken into consideration with respect to the weighting of grant allocations.

In concluding the debate, Members concurred that the e-Planning element was to be welcomed. However, it was a matter of concern that inadequate timescales were given by Government for public consultations.

On a Motion moved by Cllr P A Capon and seconded by Cllr P K Savill it was:-

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the ODPM be informed that this Council has no comments to make on the methodology for calculating PDG, but welcomes the e-Planning element.
- (2) That a letter be sent to the ODPM expressing this Authority's concern at the short timescales given for public consultations. (HPS)

## **28 PROPOSED FURTHER CHANGES TO PLANNING FEES**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services outlining a list of further changes to planning fees to be introduced from 1 April 2005. Comments were required by 28 January 2005.

During debate there was a general consensus that planning fees should be at a level such that they covered the full costs of service delivery. It was, however, recognised that it was difficult for the Government to work out the actual costs of processing planning applications, as costs varied between Local Authorities.

### **Resolved**

That the ODPM be informed that this Council supports the proposals for a greater increase in planning fees from 1 April 2005, but considers that further increases should be considered in the future to ensure that fees cover the full costs of service delivery. (HPS)

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....