

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 30 September 2014

**Subject:** Portfolio Holder Report – Governance  
and Development Management

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor John Philip

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## **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Governance and Development Management Portfolio Holder be noted.**

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### **1. Development Control**

There has been a significant increase in the number of planning applications compared with this time last year (approximately 200 more). This obviously helps with the amount of receipts of planning income, however resourcing this level of transactions is about to become more challenging, as two planning officers (Katie Smith and Lindsay Trevillian) have accepted promotions at neighbouring planning authorities. We are about to advertise the two posts but it is possible that the number applying may be low. We have received feedback from other Essex authorities who have also been experiencing recent officer movement, many of which are going to the private sector that suggests this may be the case.

### **2. Legal**

We have just totalled the number of complaints that have been submitted to the Local Government Ombudsman and we have had a very good few months. In fact compared to first 5 months (April - Aug) of each year for the last 4 years, there has been the lowest number of complaints submitted.

2010-11- 10 complaints

2011-12 - 6 complaints

2012-13 - 8 complaints

2013-14 - 7 complaints

2014-15 - 3 complaints