

Scrutiny Standing Panel Agenda



Planning Services Scrutiny Standing Panel Thursday, 12th February, 2009

Place: Committee Room 2, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 7.30 pm

Democratic Services Officer: Mark Jenkins - Office of the Chief Executive
Email mjenkins@eppingforestdc.gov.uk Tel: 01992 564607

Members:

Councillors Mrs L Wagland (Chairman), K Chana (Vice-Chairman), A Boyce, M Colling, Mrs A Cooper, R Frankel, J Hart, Mrs C Pond, W Pryor, P Spencer and H Ulkun

A BRIEFING FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL WILL BE HELD AT
7.00 PM PRIOR TO THE MEETING

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
3. **NOTES FROM THE LAST MEETING - 18.11.08 (Pages 5 - 12)**

The last meeting of the Panel was scheduled for 6 January 2009, but was cancelled. The attached minutes are from the previous meeting, 18 November 2008.
4. **SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**
5. **TERMS OF REFERENCE (Pages 13 - 14)**
6. **WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 15 - 18)**
7. **PRESENTATION ON THE PLANNING PORTAL**

S Bacon, Business Manager, to give a presentation on the Planning Portal.
8. **UPDATE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE - REVISED ESTIMATE 2008/09 AND ESTIMATE FOR 2009/10 (Pages 19 - 22)**

Report attached.
9. **SCRUTINY REVIEW REQUEST - COUNCILLOR A. COOPER (Pages 23 - 36)**

Report attached.

10. PLANNING COMMITTEE 3 WEEK CYCLE (Pages 37 - 38)

11. REVIEW OF PLANNING PROTOCOL (Pages 39 - 58)

Recommendation:

To consider whether the Panel should submit any comments to the Standards Committee on the Planning Protocol.

1. (Assistant to the Chief Executive) The Epping Forest District Standards Committee is undertaking one of its regular reviews of the Council's Planning Protocol. The Committee is consulting members of the Council, planning officers, legal staff, planning agents and local councils to ascertain whether they have any new issues which should be cored in the Protocol or any existing provisions which may need revision.

2. The committee plans to undertake its review at its July meeting and are inviting this Panel to comment as it is dealing with an action plan covering all aspects of the Council's planning service.

3. The Committee has itself already identified some aspects of the Protocol and the Assistant to the Chief Executive will describe these at the meeting if required. However it would be helpful if the Panel could describe any points of concern so these may be taken back to the Committee. If the Panel wishes to make any comments in person to the Committee, they are asked to indicate accordingly.

12. STAFFING UPDATE

The vacant positions at present within Planning and Economic Development are:

- (a) Assistant Director Policy and Conservation
- (b) Three Senior Building Control Surveyors
- (c) One Principal Building Control Surveyor
- (d) One Senior Planning Officer – Development Control
- (e) One Rural Officer

It should be noted that the posts within Building Control are being kept vacant to assist the Building Control Account to be kept in balance.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next programmed meeting of the Panel is on 12 March 2009.

