

**Report to: Planning Services Scrutiny  
Standing Panel**

**Date of meeting: 18 November 2008**

**Subject: An Improvement Plan for the Directorate of  
Planning & Economic Development**

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**Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins, Democratic Services Assistant (01992 56 4607)**

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**Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

**To consider and comment on the proposed Planning and Economic Development  
Directorate Improvement Plan.**

**Report:**

Within the covering report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 November (which principally concerned the completion of the Value for Money exercise on Development Control), it was agreed that the Directorate would produce an Improvement Plan for the next eighteen months.

As the Panel's investigations have shown, there has already been significant change within Planning over the last few years. However, there is scope for further change and improvement. There is a strong commitment to continuous improvement amongst both the Senior Management Team within the Directorate and their teams of staff.

For example the training, roll out and feedback on the Planning computer systems at present, and over the next few months should demonstrate what genuinely innovative, new systems have been developed.

Attached is a draft of an improvement plan, based on that used for other exercises, such as the Comprehensive Performance Assessment. The plan seeks to identify 13 areas of potential improvement based on feedback on current performance and proposes action to address these, alongside the resources required and an indicative timescale.

The Panel's input into the content and scope of the plan is sought. If members of the Panel are in agreement, regular progress reports will be brought to future meetings.