

TERMS OF REFERENCE - STANDING PANEL

Title: Planning Services

Status: Standing Panel

Terms of Reference:

1. **Regional Planning.** To consider matters which arise as a result of the adoption of the East Of England Plan, the Single Issue Review thereof concerning Gypsies and Travellers, and the review to 2031. In particular, this will consider working in partnership with others to secure delivery of the plan with adequate infrastructure, and will allow the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development to remain tuned in to local views.
2. **Local Development Framework.** In association with 1, to keep an overview of work associated with securing a sound Local Development Framework; in particular how the core strategy will cater for the adequate delivery of infrastructure of all types, the limited rolling back of the Metropolitan Green Belt to allow the regeneration and expansion of Harlow, the increased provision of affordable housing, and the maintenance of the existing settlement pattern elsewhere in the District.
3. **Metropolitan Green Belt.** To consider what changes are practical and desirable to Council policies including those concerning the extension of existing dwellings, and the reuse of redundant and other buildings; in particular, are further restrictions necessary (changes in policy required) to ensure that such developments are truly sustainable.
4. **Value for Money.** To regularly consider in detail the provision of Value for Money within the Directorate focusing on:
 - Development Control (including Appeals)
 - Forward Planning
 - Building Control
 - Enforcement
 - Administration and Customer Support
 - Economic Development
 - Environment Team
5. To gather evidence and information through the receipt of:
 - performance monitoring documents,
 - Best Value Review of Planning Services (updated version)
 - benchmarking exercises,
 - staffing levels, and
 - annual consultation with Planning Committee Members, customers and IT Suppliers.
6. To review a selection of controversial planning decisions to see if lessons can be learnt from their consideration.
7. To consider whether the reporting arrangements for all of the above matters and those for the Section 106s (including how they are negotiated agreed and

implemented strategically to secure community benefit), and appeals are sufficient (including how new legislation impacts on these) and to recommend accordingly.

8. To evaluate all relevant facts in relation to the topics under review in an objective way and to produce recommendations for future action accordingly;
9. To establish whether there are any resource implications arising out of the topics under review and advise Cabinet at appropriate intervals for inclusion in the Budget Process.
10. To report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at appropriate intervals.
11. To monitor actions arising from the Improvement Plan for the Directorate.

Chairman: Cllr Mrs Wagland