

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

**Date of meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010**

**Subject: PlanIt Epping Forest Planning Department  
Newsletter**

**Officer contact for further information: Robin Hellier**  
Ext 4546

**Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins**

---



**Recommendations/Decisions Required:** Update on the Planning Directorate's The PlanIt Newsletter

## **Report:**

The primary aim of the two page monthly newsletter is to promote staff inclusiveness. In the Planning Directorate, teams have tended to isolate themselves within the focus of their own discipline. Therefore the aim of the publication is to link up and inform groups of other teams achievements, good news and success stories and updates on planning related items, such as new Government initiatives and Policy changes. Hyperlinks are used for certain subjects to allow more in depth examination of articles, should individuals choose to gain further insight on matters. Initial feedback from officers and Members have been positive, with comments for improvements also taken on board. The third issue of the newsletter is attached for reference.

Currently the newsletter is circulated internally only. There is an aspiration for a version of the newsletter to be circulated more widely to the general public as a means of updating and informing people about Planning and also in order to elevate the Planning Directorate's profile. For this to happen the existing content would need to be edited and additionally items added for public consumption. This would allow for valuable, appropriate information to be circulated that would bring the public up to speed on important Planning matters and promote the vital function that Planning plays within the EFDC Corporate structure.

## **Reason for decision:**

No decision required.

## **Options considered and rejected:**

To retain PlanIt purely for internal use.

## **Consultation undertaken:**

Continually receiving feedback from Council officers and Members

## **Resource implications:**

Budget provision: None applicable

Personnel: 6 officers at approximately two hours each monthly.

Land: None

Community Plan/BVPP reference: N/A

Relevant statutory powers: N/A

Background papers: None

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: None

Key Decision reference: (if required) None