

Report to Planning Services Scrutiny Standing Panel

Date of meeting: 2 September 2010

**Subject: Clarification of the Planning Appeals and the
Instructing of Counsel Report**

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Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins (01992 56 4607)



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Clarification of the Planning Appeals and the Instructing of Counsel Report be noted.

Report:

At the last Planning Services Scrutiny Standing Panel on 3 June 2010, a report was submitted regarding Planning Appeals and the Instructing of Counsel. Members had queried what was meant by political insensitivity in the report. (The report is attached as an appendix). The reference was not intended to suggest that there was party political sensitivity, or political with a capital P involved.

Rather small p political sensitivity might involve whether a Gypsies and Travellers case was in Roydon or Nazeing, if there was proximity to an election, and if the case was found to be less strong once the appeal was launched, perhaps because a key consultee (such as ECC Highways or the Environment Agency) had begun to take a different view from that which it held at application stage. Combinations of the above may also have been possible.

If Members have any other queries about the report, then there can either be a specific meeting arranged with relevant legal officers shortly, or an officer will be present at the next meeting of the Panel.