

## Interview – Nigel Richardson (Assistant Director: Development Management) 03/10/14

1. Only involved with planning scrutiny panel. Have attended meetings over the years but only recently as a Lead Officer.
  - Panels seem to be scratching around for things to bring to the panel
  - Hasn't really got much out of the process and they have had to cancel meetings in the past.
  - Doesn't think much changes as a result of meetings (seems to be more about information gathering for members rather than scrutinising) – Example given was 'you cannot scrutinise individual planning applications' therefore there seems little point in the process.
2. Makes more sense to have it as Directorate based panels as items are more easily located (e.g. the 'non-covered' items on the current structure).
  - It currently feels like forced scrutiny (looking for things to cover instead of there being a real need for it). Hopefully the new structure would give clarity on what needs to be covered for real scrutiny.
  - Preference would be for this model
  - **Question** – Does planning come in to the Governance Directorate (e.g. under specific scrutiny proposals)?
  - **Question** – Building control also not mentioned in current structure or new structure. Where does it fit in?
3. No other views on other structure models. Had envisioned it as a four panel structure in line with the Directorates.
  - **Question** - Would like to compare and contrast with other Councils for O&S re: best practice – Informed that we use the East of England O&S scrutiny forum on Knowledge Hub and that the Essex O&S forums that are restarting (seemed pleased with response).
4. No worries about the project but would be disappointed if panels stayed the same.
5. That the four panel structure related to Directorates be adopted.

### **Additional info**

- Liked the idea of the facilitated workshop to cover topics of:
  - What the role of Scrutiny is
  - What we want to achieve with Scrutiny
  - Where do our priorities lie re: Scrutiny