

### **Changes to the Planning Committee meeting structures and frequency**

As always there is a lot of concern about planning matters with a widespread view that the emphasis on decisions within eight weeks is compromising their quality. The point was made that there was evidently a financial inducement to meet the eight-week target but the question was then raised as to the significance of the sum involved. Maybe this could be explained?

There was no consensus amongst representatives present as to what the best arrangement of area and committee should be but there was almost universal agreement that the apparent focus on three committees was wrong. Rather than a concentration on speed of decision there ought to be an emphasis on a balanced result that was good for the District. Although the discussion about future arrangements is taking place in another committee in the same week and some local councils have submitted comments and may attend, it was felt that a proper debate should take place. This important matter will obviously have to be settled by the full Council of EFDC but it is surely right that the widest discussion should be sought.