Planning Application Appeals Working Group Recommendations

The recommendations from this scrutiny working group are as follows: -

Lessons Learnt

R1) That a Lessons Learnt review be carried out on the planning applications process and documented and made available to members of the planning committee and officers to improve learning and development and contribute to ongoing service improvement.

Member Training

R2) That focused member development workshops be included in the member development programme for members of the planning committee (and substitute members), with an agenda work plan produced for these workshops, addressing known issues and risks that may arise in consideration of overturning officer recommendations to the planning committee, to include the potential loss of Section 106 monies and Considering officer recommendations and the possible implications of overturning officer recommendations should they result in being successfully contested as appeal.

R3) That focused member development be included to address the role of planning committee specifically in consideration of planning applications against the Local Plan criteria, to help improve the robustness of planning decisions that overturn officer recommendations and help to reduce the risk of successful appeals.

Action Plan

R4) That the Action Plan being developed address known issues in addressing the robustness of the consideration of member proposals to reject planning applications where officer recommendations would be overturned in planning committee, so that the risk of being successfully contested at appeal may be reduced.

Information request:

That the Action Plan be bought to the overview and scrutiny committee for review.

Monitoring Improvement

R5) That a monitoring framework be developed to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan and improvements and development to the planning applications process with a reports to a future meeting of the overview and scrutiny committee, to include key metrics (RAG rated) and implementation milestones.