

Committee: Scrutiny Committee

Date:

Title: Major Planning Application Processes -
Planning Advisory Service proposal

Tuesday, 25 June
2019

**Report
Author:** Richard Auty, Assistant Director - Corporate
Services
rauty@uttlesford.gov.uk

Summary

1. The Planning Advisory Service (PAS) has prepared a proposal with regard to the request by the Scrutiny Committee for a review into the council's processes for major planning applications. PAS is proposing an initial scoping review to ascertain where further work is required.

Recommendations

2. The committee approves the proposal for a scoping review as set out in the attached letter.

Financial Implications

3. PAS has quoted a cost of £5,000 to £6,000 plus expenses to carry out this scoping review. The S151 Officer confirmed to the Scrutiny Committee before the election that the money would be made available for this piece of work.

Background Papers

4. None

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	The results of the review will be reported back to the Scrutiny Committee
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None

Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	The scoping review will require the involvement of some members of planning staff.

Situation

6. The Planning Advisory Service (PAS) provides consultancy and training on planning and service delivery to councils. It is funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government through the Local Government Association.
7. The Council approached PAS following a request from the previous Scrutiny Committee with regard to reviewing the council's processes for dealing with major planning applications.
8. PAS is recommending an initial scoping review which is outlined in the attached letter. Also attached is the full review proposal, which follows established PAS methodology. The scoping review would identify where further review work may subsequently be required.
9. This general review of process and documentation can be carried out irrespective of the status of the most recent major planning application.
10. PAS has indicated that it would be in a position to commence work in July and report back in September.

Risk Analysis

11.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The committee does not approve the proposal, meaning the review cannot proceed	1 – the committee has already indicated it would like the review to proceed	3 – the review would not proceed	PAS is an independent organisation with great experience in such matters. The proposal is based on established methodology.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.

