

**Committee:** Planning  
**Date:** 27 October 2021  
**Title:** Report of the Review of The Planning Service  
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## Summary

1. The Council commissioned a review of the planning service in 2020 from the East of England LGA. This work was addressed in three strands, the first two addressing the preparations for the development of a local plan. The third strand effectively addressed the Council's development management service. This report relates to the third strand review and its subsequent report. The review of the development management service was undertaken by two Associates of the East of England LGA in late 2020 and early 2021.
2. The finalised report East of England LGA, Fit for Purpose Local Planning Authority and Development Management Improvement Plan, August 2021 is appended to this report as Appendix 1

## Recommendations

3. Planning Committee is recommended to receive and consider the report

## Financial Implications

4. The report makes a number of recommendations which may have financial implications for future budgets. In setting the budget for 2021-22 the Council agreed growth of £240,000 for the planning service and £140,000 for the legal service in order to facilitate implementation of any recommendations arising from the review

## Situation

5. The Scrutiny Committee considered the matter at the meeting on Thursday, 7 October. During the Chair's summary of the discussion, he said it was important that residents received the best possible service in the future, and there needed to be clarity on who would take responsibility for the delivery of the service. There also needed to be an understanding of how the recommendations would be implemented.
6. Cabinet considered the matter on 19 October 2021 it made the following recommendations.

- a. receive and consider the report, together with any comments or recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee.
  - b. note the improvement actions implemented to date.
  - c. approve the recommendations of the report, as amended if agreed under (a) above, for implementation towards an improved planning management service.
  - d. acknowledge the recommendations directed to the Cabinet and its Executive Members and requests the Chief Executive and the Leader to bring forward proposals to address these recommendations.
  - e. consider any consequential resource implications as part of consideration of the Council budget for 2022-23.
  - f. require a progress report to Cabinet on implementation of the recommendations no later than six months from this meeting; and
  - g. refer the report to the Planning Committee for its information and consideration.
7. For information on the background to the report the report to Cabinet is appended as Appendix 2

### **Background Papers**

- a. East of England LGA, Fit for Purpose Local Planning Authority and Development Management Improvement Plan, August 2021
- b. Report to Scrutiny Committee 7 October 2021
- c. Report to Cabinet 19 October 2021