

Committee: Planning Committee

Date: 24 November 2021

Title: Establishment of Planning Committee Working Group

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Summary

1. The Planning Committee will recall receiving at the last meeting on 27 October 2021 the finalised report East of England LGA, Fit for Purpose Local Planning Authority and Development Management Improvement Plan, August 2021.
2. The report recommends a number of pathways for the transformation of the service. Two of these pathways relate to members. Specifically, Member Development and Planning Committee.
3. It is considered that the formal establishment of a Planning Committee Working Group would provide the necessary focus to take responsibility for progressing the timetable and actions required by the EELGA Peer Review as they relate to the member Development Implementation Pathway and Planning Committee. The Draft Terms of Reference is attached as Appendix A.

Recommendations

4. Planning Committee to recommend that Full Council formally establishes a Planning Committee Working Group and approves the proposed Terms of Reference (Appendix A).

Financial Implications

5. None

Situation

6. An informal Planning Committee working party has been running successfully since the summer of 2019. This has brought forward appropriate changes to the workings of Planning Committee. In light of the emerging work from the EELGA Peer review it is considered that this informal approach be formally established.
7. The Draft Terms of Reference confirm the formal status of the PCWG and its area of focus and specific actions namely:
 - All Member training to build a mutual understanding of the benefits

of good Member and officer relationships and the Code of Conduct.

- Councillors on Planning Committee to undertake mandatory training with annual refreshers Encouraged to read the NPPF.
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 - Councillors on Planning Committee to observe a recognised best practice LPA Planning Committee at work.
 - Review and update the scheme of delegation.
 - Update call in protocols so they are based on material planning considerations, are time bound, include a responsibility for the Chair and Deputy Chair to check whether call ins are based on material planning considerations and ensure clarity about the view of the relevant member (refusal or approval).
 - Receive and consider updates regarding the progress of wider service transformation.
8. Matters around the composition of the group, the frequency of meeting and reporting mechanism is confirmed with the Terms of Reference.

Background Papers

- a. Planning Committee Working Group-Draft terms of Reference (Appendix A)
- b. East of England LGA, Fit for Purpose Local Planning Authority and Development Management Improvement Plan, August 2021