

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD 27th February 2012

Planning Policy Task Group – Interim Report

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor C. B. Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service for Overview and Scrutiny	Claire Felton – Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	No
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Board with an update on the progress of the Planning Policy Task Group's investigations and to inform Members that the Task Group's final report will be presented to the Board at its meeting on 26th March 2012.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Board note this report.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications for the purpose of this report.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 There are no legal implications for the purpose of this report.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.3 At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 27th September 2011 and following a request from full Council, it was agreed that a Task Group would be established to scrutinise issues relating to Planning Policy. The Task Group Chairman and membership were agreed by the Board at its meeting held on 12th October 2011. Following discussions at the Board meeting held on 21st November 2011 it was further agreed that the work of the Board Investigation into Planning Enforcement would be amalgamated within the scope of the Planning Policy Task Group.

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- 3.4 The full terms of reference are detailed in the Overview and Scrutiny Exercise Scoping Checklist, attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.5 The first meeting of the Task Group took place on 1st November 2011 where Members discussed the terms of reference of the Task Group, the timetable and witnesses they wished to call to give evidence.
- 3.6 A further eight meetings of the Task Group have taken place, together with a site visit. Evidence has been received from the following witnesses:

Head of Planning and Regeneration
Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Development Control Manager (Operations)
Planning Enforcement Officer
Portfolio Holder for Planning, Core Strategy, Regulatory Services and Strategic Housing
Customer First Officer
Lead Auditor

A number of residents from the vicinity of the Former Landfill Site, Alvechurch Highway, Lydiate Ash also attended a meeting, together with the Ward Councillor, as part of the evidence gathering process.

- 3.7 At the time of writing this report arrangements are still being made to interview a representative from the Environment Agency and a further two meetings of the Task Group have been planned. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee have also been invited to give evidence to the next meeting.
- 3.8 The Task Group has carried out case studies in respect of the Former Landfill Site, Alvechurch Highway, Lydiate Ash and Longbridge East and Part River Arrow, Groveley Lane, Cofton Hackett.
- 3.9 Members have also investigated in detail the Council's Enforcement Policy and Customer Feedback Policy.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.10 N/A

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 N/A

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Exercise Scoping Checklist

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6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Planning Policy Task Group Investigation papers

7. **KEY**

None

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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