

Overview and Scrutiny Board – 15th September 2014

Ruth Bamford/Cllr Kit Taylor

Making Experiences Count Report

The Head of Planning and Regeneration will attend in order to respond to concerns raised in respect of the Making Experience's Count Quarterly Report and outstanding recommendations from the Planning Policy Task Group Report as detailed below.

Whilst considering the above report at the Board meeting held on 16th June Members raised concerns over the apparent increase in the number of complaints relating to Development Control. It is understood that these complaints were as a result of improvements being made to the system and the transformation process. It would be helpful if you could provide us with details and the progress of the transformation work being carried out in Development Control and what action is being taken to address the staffing problems also mentioned in the Making Experiences Count Report.

It was noted that a complaint had also been received from a customer unhappy with no consideration having been given to residents regarding an application for a property in the next road. Members understand that the process of consultation in some authorities includes this and it would be useful if you could explain whether this has ever been considered at Bromsgrove.

There are also a number of recommendations from the Planning Policy Task Group which remain outstanding, can you please provide an update on the current position in respect of these (please see the attached extract from the Board's Quarterly Recommendation Tracker).

Date of O&S Board	Recommendation	Date Considered by Cabinet & Comments on action taken to implement the recommendation(s)					
10 th September 2012	<u>Recommendation 4</u> That a detailed review of the Planning Enforcement Policy, which was adopted in April 2011 (as encouraged in Section 8 – Conclusion), be carried out giving particular attention to Sections 4 – Enforcement Procedures (Informal) and 7 – Council’s Commitment to Complainants.	4 th July 2012	July		Oct	√ Jan (2015)	April
			<u>Cabinet Comment:</u> Agreed Implementation date – this will form part of the on going transformation process. <u>Update September 2013</u> <i>This will occur, if necessary, when the Enforcement process is considered through the Transformation process.</i>				
10 th September 2012	<u>Recommendation 8</u> That thorough the Transformation programme a review and mapping exercise be carried out in respect of the process post planning application approval stage and that the results of this be shared with the Overview and Scrutiny Board.	4 th July 2012	July		Oct	√ Jan (2015)	April
			<u>Cabinet Comment:</u> Agreed Implementation date – this will form part of the on going transformation process. <u>Update September 2013</u> <i>Enforcement is not yet at the Transformation stage.</i>				
10 th September 2012	<u>Recommendation 9</u> That the Internal Audit Report recommendations be supported and included within the Overview and Scrutiny Board’s Quarterly Recommendation Tracker report to ensure that progress on the implementation is monitored in an	4 th July 2012	July		Oct	√ Jan (2015)	April
			<u>Cabinet Comment:</u> Agreed Implementation date – with immediate effect. <u>Update September 2013</u> <i>Recommendations from this report and comments are attached at Appendix 1 of the tracker.</i> <u>July 2014</u> <i>The outstanding recommendations</i>				

Date of O&S Board	Recommendation	Date Considered by Cabinet & Comments on action taken to implement the recommendation(s)	
	appropriate and timely manner.		<i>from this report are detailed below.</i>

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – Ad Hoc Investigation: Marlbrook Tip

Recommendation	Comment on actions taken to implement recommendation
<p>1. <u>Planning Approval</u> Where a planning application may result in the approval including a significant number of conditions, that the Planning Committee is made aware of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the resources needed to effectively monitor compliance; • whether there are suitably qualified and/or experience officers within the Council; and • if not, what outsourcing arrangements would be required. 	
<p>2. <u>Monitoring Arrangements</u> That for any future similar developments and in order to provide clear accountability monitoring should be undertaken by officers and/or a group with suitable experience and expertise and the authority to make decisions.</p>	