

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Joint Meeting of the Local Development Framework Working Party and the Planning Committee

24th August 2010

SPATIAL PLANNING PEER REVIEW ACTION PLAN

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Jill Dyer
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The following report and appendix 1 highlight the key points emerging from a spatial planning peer review undertaken by the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government (IDeA) and the Planning Advisory Service (PAS). Appendix 2 is the peer review action plan developed to address the recommendations of the external review team.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Local Development Framework Working Party and the Planning Committee review the attached report and refer any comments and recommendations for consideration by Cabinet on 8th September 2010.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In October 2009 a team from IDeA and PAS visited the Council to undertake a Spatial Planning Peer Review. The format of the review was designed to help the planning service assess its current achievements, and its capacity to change and continue to improve. The review team were onsite for two days during which they spoke to a wide variety of officers, members, service users, and other partners and stakeholders in the planning process in order to gauge the necessary information to deliver their report.
- 3.2 A report was prepared by the review team (see appendix 1) which outlines 18 key recommendations organised into the following areas,
- Achieving outcomes,
 - Integration and collaboration,
 - Leading and engaging the community,
 - Management,
 - Innovation,
 - Learning and excellence and,

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- Shared knowledge and evidence.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The action plan (see appendix 2) identifies both the recommendations from the review team, and also the proposed actions developed by planning services to address these issues.
- 4.2 Some of the actions such as lifting the housing moratorium, and engaging with Birmingham City Council at director level, have already been implemented. Some of the other recommendations focus on the delivery of development targets associated with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). This part of the development plan, however, has now been revoked meaning that these recommendations may need to be reassessed in the light of the new planning regime which focuses on bottom-up local planning, rather than top-down regional planning.
- 4.3 Whilst most of the recommendations are to be implemented by officers, in a number of key areas, members' involvement in the way the planning service operates is the subject of the review team's recommendations. Officers will work with members on delivering these actions.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The review and action plan has a number of recommendations which will affect how the Council prepares future planning policies.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

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- 8.1 The operation of an efficient and successful spatial planning and regeneration service will have significant impacts on all of the Council's objectives and priorities. Most obviously, this will include the development of new housing to meet identified needs and town centre regeneration, to the promotion of sustainable development which addresses climate change, and promotes inclusive communities.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 None directly, all risk to be managed through the Planning and Regeneration risk register.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Actions within the plan focus on how the planning service interacts with its customers, the implementation of the plan will improve contact, where necessary, between the planning service and its customers.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 None

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

- 12.1 The recommendations that the planning service looks to investigate opportunities for shared working and adopts a more flexible development management approach, in time could deliver a planning service that is better value for money.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

- 13.1 Successful spatial planning has full regard to climate change, carbon reduction, and the protection of biodiversity. Actions within the plan relate to improvements which will ensure these issues continue to be a significant consideration when the planning service assesses a wide range of developments within the district.

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14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

14.1 None

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

15.1 None

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

16.1 None

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

17.1 None

18. LESSONS LEARNT

18.1 The recommendations and subsequent action plan identifies a number of areas / lessons to be learnt with regard to the delivery and development of planning services.

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

19.1 A wide range of planning services users were interviewed as part of the review, and this is reflected in a number of actions within the plan, including the introduction of a website review, the implementation of the customer first actions plans, and ongoing customer surveys.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	No
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	No
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No

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Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Yes
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

21. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards

22. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Spatial Planning Peer Review

Appendix 2 - Spatial Planning Peer Review Action Plan

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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