

## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

# **Cabinet**

8th September 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 highlights the key points 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. The peer review and action plan were considered by a joint meeting of the Local Development Framework Working Party and the Planning Committee on 24th August 2010. Any comments arising from that meeting will be reported to the Cabinet.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Members note the spatial planning peer review report (Appendix 1), and endorse the peer review action plan (Appendix 2).

#### **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.
- 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,
  - 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 required 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 focussed on the delivery of development targets associated with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). This part of the development plan has now been revoked meaning these recommendations may need to be reassessed in the light of the new planning regime which focuses on bottom up local planning, rather than top down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 for officers to implement, in a number of key areas members involvement in the way the planning service operates is also the subject of 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**

- 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, from obvious ones such as the development of new housing to meet the 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**

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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 where necessary contact 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 recommendation that the planning service looks to investigate opportunities for shared working and adopting a more flexible development management approach, in time could deliver a better value for money planning service.

#### **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 development within the district.

#### **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**

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17.1 None

#### **18. LESSONS LEARNT**

18.1 The recommendations and subsequent action plan identifies a number of areas / lessons to be learnt where the planning service can look to develop.

#### **19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

19.1 A wide range of planning services users were interviewed as part of the review, actions within the plan include measures such as 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
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**

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