

TITLE: PLANNING REVIEW

To: Regulatory and Support Services Committee

Date: 4th April 2016

From: Jo Brooks (Director Regulatory Services)

[Q235]

1.0 Issue

1.1 To inform Regulatory and Support Services Committee of the planning review.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Regulatory and Support Services Committee are asked to note the contents of the planning review report attached at appendix A.

3.0 Background

3.1 The planning review commenced in August 2015. The main objections of the review were to ensure that:

- Members have restored **confidence** in the planning service and its processes,
- Customers receive a **consistent**, responsive and timely service where officers offer solutions rather than create problems, and,
- The service embraces a **strategic** role and is the catalyst in facilitating growth within the district rather than perceived as a blocker to development.

3.2 There have been a number of changes within the department to achieve these objectives; this includes both staffing and processes. The findings of the planning review are attached at appendix A.

4.0 Conclusions

4.1 The last six months has seen the Planning Service undergo a period of transformation. The planning review has enabled the team to make considerable positive changes within the Planning Service and many of the objectives have now been or are being met.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The amended organisation structure which forms part of the planning review would provide a saving to the Council of approximately £31,000 per annum.

6.0 Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required.

7.0 Appendices

7.1 Appendix A – Planning Review

Background documents- None

Contact officer

Jo Brooks

Director Regulatory Services

(01353) 616498

Email- jo.brooks@eastcambs.gov.uk