

Decision Maker: Renewal & Recreation PDS Committee

Date: 18th September 2013

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **PLANNING SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS, AND PROGRESS WITH ACTION TO MINIMISE PLANNING APPEAL COSTS**

Contact Officer: Jim Kehoe, Chief Planner
Tel: 020 8313 4441 E-mail: jim.kehoe@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Marc Hume, Director of Regeneration & Transformation

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 The Committee endorsed a revised Outline Planning Improvement Plan as a framework for improvement at its 11th June 2013 meeting. It identified Customer Service and Planning Enforcement as priority areas. A report on progress is given, and an update will be presented following the Member Enforcement Working Party meeting of 4th September. An updated version of the Improvement Plan is attached at Appendix Two. Proposals to support Economic Growth are presented for Members to consider.
- 1.2 In June, the Committee also agreed that action be taken to minimise future planning appeal costs awarded against the Council, including the formation of a Panel Group to assist with the preparation of an action plan. This report updates the Committee on progress and in particular seeks the Committee's endorsement of informal Guidelines for Members sitting on Planning Committees.
- 1.3 The report on progress comprises the attached parallel agenda to Development Control Committee of 12th September 2013 and an update will accordingly be given to the PDS Committee.
-

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 That the Planning Service Improvements be noted and that the next priorities set out in the report, be endorsed.
- 2.2 That the attached (Appendix 3) informal Guidelines for Planning Committee Members be endorsed by the Committee and be reviewed within 6 months time.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council.
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Planning and Renewal
 4. Total current budget for this head: £2.618m
 5. Source of funding: Existing revenue budget 2013/2014
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 64ftes (excluding Building Control, Land Charges)
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 14
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-statutory - Government guidance.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable.
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): those promoting and commenting on about 3,000 planning applications per year.
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: