

## **Recommendations of Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

### **6.1 Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 19 September 2018**

#### **6.1.1 Planning Panel's Final Report**

Consideration was given to a report of the Planning Panel Lead Member, Councillor Hibberd. A Member Panel had been appointed to review the role and operation of the Planning Control Committee and the two area Planning Committees and to gain a better understanding of how the Planning Committees operated and produce recommendations for their future role, structure and composition.

A Task and Finish Panel had been set up in 2016 to review the Council's Plans and Planning Process to examine the role of the Plans Panel, the area Planning Committees and the Planning Control Committee.

That Panel submitted its report to the Committee on 16 October 2016 and a number of recommendations on the Planning Advisory Panel and on how Planning Committees operate were recommended to Cabinet.

The Panel at that time did not review the role and operation of the Planning Control Committee and the two area Planning Committees and therefore a Phase 2 of the Panel was to review those areas.

The Planning Panel met to review whether the three Committees;

- Still had a valid role to play in the Borough Council's planning process in their current form.
- Fulfilled their function.
- Had a structure and composition which reflected the knowledge of planning required and
- Produced outcomes which stood up to robust scrutiny

Whilst reaching their conclusion and recommendations the Panel were aware that the Planning Advisory Service would be undertaking an independent review of the Council's Planning Committees in the autumn. The Committee were keen for the Panel's recommendations to be considered by the Planning Advisory Service during their review.

Councillor Hibberd and the Panel were congratulated for all the hard work, time and commitment that they had put in to conclude the Panel.

#### **Recommended to Cabinet:**

- 1. That Members are encouraged to meet with new Planning Officers in order to build a rapport.**

- 2. That a programme of planning training for Members be compiled and regular updates be received.**
- 3. That the composition of Planning Control Committee comprise of a Chairman, Vice Chairman and 12 other Members made up of The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each of the two Area Committees plus the Portfolio Holder and nine members to balance northern and southern members as far as possible, as from Annual Council in May 2019.**
- 4. That the area Committees continue as currently.**