

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

PLACES ADVISORY PANEL

Date of meeting: 12 November 2008
Report of: John Knight - Prosperity Block Lead
Title: Development Management Task Group

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To recommend to the Panel, the setting up of a Development Management Task Group for Cheshire East.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 To set up a Development Management Task Group and agree its terms of reference and membership.

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 Officer time to support the Task Group pre-Vesting Day.

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 The financial implications will depend on the key decisions made about the type and location of the range of services within the Development Management block.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The control of development is a statutory service provided by all constituent authorities. Continuity of service is essential to meet statutory requirements.

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 Detailed risk assessments will need to be undertaken as various issues requiring member views are developed.

7.0 Background and Options

- 7.1 The concept of Development Management was introduced to members at the Places Induction Day in June. A wide range of Development Control and related services will comprise the new Development Management block. A copy of the original briefing note for members is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

- 7.2 In terms of planning applications, the Authority will be one of the busiest rural planning authorities in the country (based upon 2007 figures) and will be by some way receive the largest volume of planning applications within the North West Region.
- 7.3 An officer group has been working to identify Day 1, Year 1 and other issues as the service needs to bring together not only three district services, but also the County Planning services for Cheshire East, particularly strategic planning and minerals and waste planning activities.
- 7.4 A number of workshops have been held to seek to prioritise issues and identify resources to take the work forward. Whilst some of these are operational and case management matters, a number of issues have emerged which now require wider member discussion. A small number of members have contributed to the workshops to date, including the Panel's Chairman - Councillor Walton. This has been in an informal and advisory capacity to date.

Among the urgent issues now requiring wider debate and decisions among members including the Portfolio Holder and Cabinet are:-

- (a) Committee governance arrangements.
- (b) Tiers of decision making including some area based decision.
- (c) Scheme of officer delegation/member call-in.
- (d) Consistency of customer and front-line services including e-planning and location of services.
- (e) Consistency of charging for a variety of services.

8.0 Proposed Terms of Reference

- 8.1 To develop proposals for taking forward the Day 1 Development Management issues of concern to members (as listed above).
- 8.2 To consider and recommend on continuity of service issues towards the integration of the four authorities into one Cheshire East.
- 8.3 To oversee and develop a co-ordinated approach to Development Management including member training.
- 8.4 To support the preparation of a Development Management Service Delivery/Business Plan.

9.0 Membership

- 9.1 This should include representations from across existing authorities to ensure continuity of service issues are reflected in the work programme.

10.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 10.1 To align member expectations with emerging issues and solutions for the combined Service.
- 10.2 To support the officer workstream in developing practice and policy for the Authority in Development Management.

For further information:

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