

STRATEGIC PLANNING BOARD

Date of meeting: 6 May 2009
Report of: John Knight (Head of Planning & Policy)
Title: Member Training in Planning

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report progress on arrangements for further training sessions for members of the Board and the two Planning Committees.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 To agree to the training proposals.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 Training will be delivered in-house by officers or with some external support.

4.0 Legal Implications

- 4.1 To keep members up-to-date with changes in procedures, cases and practice and to ensure decisions on planning are made on the latest information and advice.

5.0 Risk Assessment

- 5.1 To mitigate against the potential for appeals, costs and legal challenges.

6.0 Background and Options

- 6.1 The Board has previously agreed that a programme of half-day training sessions be arranged over the coming year at approximately 5-6 week intervals. The first session will be held on 11 May at 2.00pm - 5.00pm, details to be confirmed. The proposed topic is 'Decision Making' which will cover the Council's arrangements for making planning decisions together with an update on the Development Plan policy situation and material planning applications. The other dates and venues for the training sessions are still being finalised and it is hoped to provide these at the Board meeting. In terms of topics, it is suggested that the second session to be held in June cover planning enforcement as well as decision making and policy for minerals and waste planning applications. Both these topics were on the original list agreed by the Board and both subjects would be topical and relevant at this time.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 7.1 To ensure members of the Board and the Planning Committees are kept up to date with changes in procedures, cases and practice and to ensure planning decisions are made on the basis of the latest information and advice.

For further information:

Portfolio Holder: Jamie Macrae

Officer: John Knight

Tel No: 01625 504603

Email: john.knight@cheshireeast.gov.uk