

Update on Cabinet Response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board**Review of the Planning Service****Report to Overview and Scrutiny Board on 13 October 2021****Resolutions of the Overview and Scrutiny Board:**

No.	Recommendation:	Cabinet Response:	Update:
1.	that the initial Planning Review Action Plan set out in the submitted report be endorsed;	Cabinet endorses the Overview & Scrutiny Board's endorsement of the Action Plan.	
2.	that regular liaison sessions be established with the Scrutiny lead for Place, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture and the Assistant Director – Planning Housing and Climate Emergency, these sessions to include an early warning in respect of planning delivery risks;	These regular liaison sessions have started and been diarised for the rest of the year. They are already providing good opportunity for discussion around hot topics within planning and clearer understanding of pressures and priorities. In addition, engagement continues between these key members outside of these sessions, as issues arise.	Liaison Sessions continue with Scrutiny lead and Cabinet Member, good discussions around performance, resource pressures and improvements in communication. Assists that the Scrutiny Lead is a member of the Planning Committee and also so committed to the Neighbourhood planning process.
3.	that the Overview and Scrutiny Board reviews the progress in implementing the Planning Review Action Plan at its	Further report scheduled to be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 14th July 2021.	Regular updates to continue to be presented to O&S Board.

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	meeting on 14 July 2021 and explores further options for improvement;		
4.	that the Assistant Director of Housing, Transport and Climate Emergency be requested to work with the Chairman of the Planning Committee to review the report format for planning applications to ensure that it includes all relevant information and links to policies and legislation to provide balanced recommendations, options and reasons for the recommendations;	First meeting diarised for Chairman of Planning Committee, Development Management Head of Service & Assistant Director, to interrogate Planning Committee Reports - their structure, content and style to ensure they are providing Planning Committee Members with the right information, in a clear format, in order to make their decisions.	Discussions continuing with Chair and with third parties that regularly attend Planning Committee. No fundamental changes to Committee report structure recommended to date, but clear explanation of merits and drawbacks of each scheme to be laid out so that members of the Planning committee can see where the balances is weighted by Officers and allows them the opportunity to explore the contrary view. Better coverage of design aspects within reports.
5.	that updated information on land supply be published on the Council's website to enable this information to be publicly available	Upon completion of the annual monitoring of housing completions, undertaken in the last week of March, all figures will be publicised clearly on the website and shared with Neighbourhood Forum colleagues. The issue of Land Supply is indeed a cornerstone of all that the Planning Service do and the Assistant Director will ensure that there is no loss of focus on the importance of striving towards and maintaining a 5 year Housing Land Supply. Pro-active engagement continues with registered providers, Homes England, local agents	Report on Housing Land Supply and the HELAA work going to September 28 th September Cabinet Catch-up and on to Cabinet in November, following further engagement with the Forums. Following Members discussions, the Housing Land Supply figure will be published. The focus continues to be on finding additional units in which to count towards the 5year housing land supply. Speedier progress on the progressing of the Inglewood development, allowed on appeal, means some of their units should be able to be included too.

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		and developers to bring forward priority (stalled) sites.	Further meetings with Homes England on Stalled sites taking place end of September.
6.	That regular update training be provided to members of the Planning Committee to ensure that they are kept up to date with key issues, policy and legislation;	Annual Programme of training being prepared and will be open to all Councillors and our Neighbourhood Forum colleagues, not just to Planning Committee members. Due to start in the next two months with a mixture of external speakers from Statutory Bodies, Partner Organisations, Technical expertise and Council Officers.	LGA – PAS Training on <i>Making Effective Planning Decisions</i> arranged for 12 th October, a series of Modular training Sessions going in Members diaries starting with <i>Drainage & Flooding Issues in Planning</i> in December; <i>Strategic Planning Matters</i> , February; and <i>Climate Emergency Issues and Planning</i> in April.

Overview and Scrutiny Board Recommendations to Cabinet:

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A.	To ensure that a dedicated resource is established to work with the TDA to progress new housing development working with the Planning Department to ensure that these projects can be progressed at pace.	Discussions taken place between the Assistant Director and the TDA, in order to establish a new Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) which would provide a dedicated planning officer resource to handle the TDA submissions on behalf of Torbay Council.	Regular monthly meetings between TDA and Development Management Team over applications, to iron out issues. Funding not been secured for a dedicated Planning Officer, but had been envisaged to be taken from Project costs, ongoing discussions about how this could be funded.
B.	To consider providing funding for a temporary additional Planning Officer post to help progress the backlog of planning applications.	Six months of an additional planning officer, to assist in clearing the backlog of applications, particularly heritage related cases and allowing the team to provide better levels of service to	Have had Temporary Planning Officer in post for 3 months, there have been some performance issues and not been a great success. However, workloads of certain Officers have been reduced and

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		<p>applicants, agents and Councillors. Work begun on looking for available Planners in the market, with relevant experience.</p> <p>In addition we are securing additional resource, dedicated planning officer posts, through funding from the NHS Trust and TDA for hospital and TDA promoted developments.</p>	<p>new permanent Planning Officer appointed in March has made a real difference.</p> <p>Additional Planning Performance Agreements (PPA's) being established with Rowcroft Hospice and with Inglewood developers to assist with additional resource.</p>
C.	To support a review and investment in appropriate planning IT software to ensure it is fit for purpose.	New Total Land Charges system links to the planning back office system and along with the wider digitalisation work, will allow for better efficiency in the processing of Land Searches. Support required from specialist company to get s106/CiL back office system set up and operating.	Two staff dedicated to getting s106/CiL Back Office system up and running, now progressing at pace. Land Charges system will follow on afterwards, using same officer to help with the installation, adoption and training for staff.

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