

Working for you

**REPORT TO:** Organisation Improvement and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Commission

**DATE:** 21 January 2008

**DEPARTMENT:** DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**REPORTING OFFICER:** HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES  
*(Mr T P Richards)*

**SUBJECT:** **UPDATE ON PLANNING SERVICE PEER REVIEW**

**WARD/S AFFECTED:** NOT APPLICABLE

**FORWARD PLAN REF:** NOT APPLICABLE

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**1.0**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Commission on the work undertaken to date and future work planned on the areas for improvement arising from the Planning Peer Review.

**2.0**

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

2.1 That the Commission receive the report and note the update on key recommendations in Appendix A.

**3.0 RECOMMENDED REASON/S FOR DECISION/S**

3.1 No decisions are being taken.

**4.0**

**ALTERNATIVE OPTION/S CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED FOR REJECTION**

4.1 None considered.

## **5.0 THE REPORT**

5.1 The Planning service review is the first service review to be carried out using the Council's revised approach to best value reviews.

5.2 The principles of best value are based around the four Cs to compare, challenge, compete and consult.

5.3 The first stage of the service review process took the form of a Peer Review undertaken 24-26 April 2007 by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) which is part of the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA). The Commission received informal feedback from two members of the PAS/IDeA Peer Review team on 18 June 2007.

5.4 The Planning service Peer Review report will form the basis for the final service review report produced by the Performance Manager. In a separate report before this meeting of the Commission she sets out the next steps for ensuring the review has addressed the four Cs and the key issues that were highlighted at the start of the review. In August I wrote to all Members and other stakeholders many of whom as either an individual or organisation had taken an active part in the Peer Review enclosing a summary of the Peer Review conclusions and a table setting down the key recommendations.

5.5 Arrangements have been made with the PAS/IDeA to hold a follow up challenge event at the Commission's meeting on 3 March 2008 if that is considered necessary.

5.6 The purpose of this report is to update the Commission on the key recommendations made by the PAS/IDeA in their report. These are set out in the table attached as Appendix A.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION/S**

6.1 It is acknowledged that further work on the key recommendations of the Peer Review Report is required. This Report merely represents a position statement.

### **Background Papers - None**

**OFFICER CONTACT:** Please contact Mr T P Richards, Head of Planning Services if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at Department of Development Services, Knapping Mount, West Grove Road, Harrogate by telephone on 01423 556538 or by Email – [tim.richards@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:tim.richards@harrogate.gov.uk).

## SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT / POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

		Implications are		
		Positive	Neutral	Negative
A	Economy	✓		
B	Environment	✓		
C	Social Equity			
i)	General		✓	
ii)	Customer Care / People with Disabilities	✓		
iii)	Health Implications		✓	
D	Crime and Disorder Implications		✓	

If all comments lie within the shaded areas, the proposal is sustainable.