

# REPORT FOR INFORMATION



Agenda  
Item 11

**MEETING:** PLANNING CONTROL COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012

**SUBJECT:** PLANNING COMMITTEE TRAINING PROGRAMME

**REPORT FROM:** ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT & REGULATORY SERVICES)

**CONTACT OFFICER:** DAVID MARNO – DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

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**TYPE OF DECISION:** N/A

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:** This paper is within the public domain

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**SUMMARY:** The report sets out the proposed training programme for Planning Control Committee Members that will place over the 2012/2013 Municipal year.

**OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION** The Committee is recommended to note the report.

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## IMPLICATIONS:

**Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:** Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? No

**Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:** N/A

**Statement by Director of Finance and E-Government:** N/A

**Equality/Diversity implications:** No

(see paragraph below)

**Considered by Monitoring Officer:** N/A  
**Are there any legal implications?** N/A (see paragraph )  
**Staffing/ICT/Property:** N/A  
**Wards Affected:** ALL  
**Scrutiny Interest:** N/A

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**TRACKING/PROCESS**

**DIRECTOR:**

Chief Executive/ Management Board	Executive Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Commission	Executive	Committee	Council

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**1.0 BACKGROUND**

1.1 This report presents the programme of training for Members of the Planning Control Committee for the period of the 2012/2013 Municipal year.

Planning Control Committee Member training is seen as an important element of the role of ensuring that the decision making process is robust and that Members are confident in understanding planning issues.

To ensure that Members are confident in the decision making process, Officers in the past have provided guidance notes, special briefings and externally run planning courses to ensure a high level of proficiency and professionalism is maintained in this role.

1.2 Planning is continually changing and is on the verge of incorporating major important central Government policy changes. Therefore training is of key importance of keeping abreast of this change in terms of regulation, policy and its implementation.

1.3 Some training sessions arise as a result of discussions that take place in Committee meetings that centre upon challenging planning issues. Given the difficult role of the Planning system, this is not surprising and part of the training programme will include refresher sessions or topic sessions where issues have caused difficulty, or policy or regulation is particularly challenging.

- 1.4 Some of the proposed sessions will need to be planned in advance with bookings made for transport and will therefore need to be fixed. Other sessions can be more fluid.
- 1.5 A key part of the training is a 'Outcomes' tour which will take place during August. This has been very well received in earlier years and allows a critical examination of the schemes built following planning permission being granted both by the Committee and officers. Suggestions for this 'tour' are welcome and more details will be published in June to allow time to be put aside for the whole day event.

## 2.0 The Programme

22nd May 2012	Planning Decision Making & Protocols - Probity and Pre-judging planning applications
19 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	National Planning Policy Framework and Localism
17 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
21 <sup>st</sup> August 2012	Outcomes Tour – Review (date to be set for tour)
18 <sup>th</sup> September 2012	Renewable Energy and Sustainable Waste Management
16 <sup>th</sup> October 2012	Planning and Flood Risk
13 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	Urban Design & Place Making
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2012	Retail – The Changing High Street
22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2013	Planning & Heritage Assets
19 <sup>th</sup> February 2013	Sustainable Transport
19 <sup>th</sup> March 2013	Planning Enforcement
23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2013	Free to accommodate specific suggestions

## 3.0 Delivery

- 3.1 The outcomes tour is an all day requirement. However, it is anticipated that the other training sessions shall take place on the afternoon of forthcoming Planning Committee meetings at 3 Knowsley Place. Actual times will need to be confirmed nearer the date to ensure that any Committee site visits are also accommodated into the programme. Papers will be circulated as appropriate.

## 4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended that the above report be noted and that the importance of Member training is formally committed to by the Committee. This will ensure that the decision making process is an informed and robust one, particularly in the changing world of planning.

**List of Background Papers:-** None

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