

# REPORT FOR INFORMATION



Agenda  
Item

7

**MEETING:** PLANNING CONTROL COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 13<sup>th</sup> MAY 2014

**SUBJECT:** PLANNING COMMITTEE TRAINING PROGRAMME

**REPORT FROM:** DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (PLANNING SERVICES)

**CONTACT OFFICER:** DAVID MARNÓ – DEVELOPMENT MANAGER,  
PLANNING

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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 2014/2015 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 2014/2015 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.

## 2.0 The Programme

13 May 2014	Health and Planning
24 June 2014	Planning Protocol and Office Visit
29 July 2014	Social Media and Planning
August 2014	Outcomes Tour
2 September 2014	Unconventional Oil and Gas Exploration
30 September 2014	Planning Enforcement
28 October 2014	Researching Planning applications and other planning related websites
25 November 2014	Urban design
16 December 2014	Update on Planning Legislative changes
20 January 2015	Community Infrastructure Levy
17 February 2015	Development Management – Personnel Structure
17 March 2015	Update on the roles of Environmental Health, Building Regulations, Licensing and Planning
April 2015	Free session for end of year summary

## 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 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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