

REPORT FOR INFORMATION



Agenda

Item 7

MEETING: PLANNING CONTROL COMMITTEE

DATE: 21st APRIL 2015

SUBJECT: PLANNING COMMITTEE TRAINING PROGRAMME

REPORT FROM: DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (RESOURCE AND REGULATION)

CONTACT OFFICER: DAVID MARNO – HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

TYPE OF DECISION: N/A

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

SUMMARY: The report sets out the proposed training programme for Planning Control Committee Members that will place over the 2015/2016 Municipal year.

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

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

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR:

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

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 This report presents the programme of training for Members of the Planning Control Committee for the period of the 2015/2016 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. Officers will let Committee know in advance.

2.0 The Programme

26 May 2015	Planning Protocols and Office Visit
23 June 2015	AD Plant Public Inquiry Briefing and Process
28 July 2015	Strategic Sites
13 August 2015	Outcomes Tour
1 September 2015	Improving Countryside Access in Bury
29 September 2015	Development Finance and Viability
27 October 2015	Greater Manchester Archaeological Service
24 November 2015	The Canal and River Trust
22 December 2015	Update on Planning Legislative changes
19 January 2016	Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and Housing
16 February 2016	Planning and the Ombudsman
15 March 2016	Appeals, Processes and the Planning Inspectorate
19 April 2016	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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