
REPORT TO: Development Services

AGENDA
ITEM:

6

DATE OF
MEETING: 5th July 2001

REPORT FROM: Planning Services Manager

CATEGORY: DEL

MEMBERS'
CONTACT POINT: John Birkett

OPEN
PARAGRAPH NO. N/A

SUBJECT: Best Value Implementation Plan for Development Control

WARDS AFFECTED: All

DOC: document2

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek approval for the above Plan.

2.0 Content

2.1 Following the review of the Development Control function and the Best Value Inspector's report, the attached plan has been prepared in response to the Inspector's recommendations. This encompasses issues that arose during the review and as a result of the inspection. Accordingly, the policies and action schedule respond to issues which have been identified as a consequence of the whole review process to date. Clarification of these issues has been a collaborative effort on the part of a group of officers, representative of a range of stakeholders.

2.2 Because the situation facing the Authority remains very fluid, adjustments to any plan will be required as other strategies develop and decisions affecting resources are taken.

3.0 Staffing Implications

3.1 The plan depends upon current staffing levels remaining in place.

3.2 In addition, the first item on the second page of the Action Schedule requires addition a new staff member who would go beyond the strict requirements of planning legislation and the building regulations by concentrating on bringing together and joining up issues of:

- crime prevention,
- improved access to new buildings for people with disabilities
- improved sustainability of buildings by reducing energy consumption, recycling heat and recovery of water, etc.

4.0 Equal Opportunities Implications

4.1 Para 3.2 suggests practical improvements by improving access to new and altered buildings.

5.0 **Anti-Poverty Strategy Implications**

5.1 Para 3.2 suggests practical improvements by potentially reducing the effects of crime.

6.0 **Agenda 21 Implications**

6.1 Para 3.2 suggests practical improvements by improving building construction methods in the District in a more sustainable way.

7.0 **Financial Implications**

7.1 The cost of employing an additional officer at a senior enough grade to make the initiative work (PO2) would be around £27,500 - £29,000.

8.0 **Conclusions**

8.1 The plan represents a significant stage in carrying forward improvements to the Development Control process. The issue of resources remains crucial to its successful fulfilment.

9.0 **Recommendations**

9.1 That the plan be adopted and the necessary additional resources be considered as part of the continuing refocusing and reprioritising exercise.

10.0 **Background Papers**

10.1 Final reports of the Best Value Review and the Inspectors