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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL &amp; DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>14TH APRIL 2005</b>	<b>CATEGORY:</b>	<b>DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>PAUL SPENCER EXT. 5722</b>	<b>DOC:</b>	<b>t:\committees\karinscommittee\env&amp;dev services\landchargesreport\140405.doc</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING REVIEW OF LOCAL LAND CHARGES</b>	<b>REF: AGM/SJS</b>	
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:</b>	<b>EDS12</b>

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### **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the Committee nominates a Member and appoints the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to be the Council's contact points for the Office of Fair Trading Review of Local Land Charges.
- 1.2 That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services liaises with the nominated Member and submits a further report on the Review to a future Meeting of the Committee.

### **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To nominate one Member and one Officer to act as contact points for the Office of Fair Trading Review into Local Land Charges.

### **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 A Briefing Note has been received from the East Midlands Regional Local Government Association (EMRLGA) about the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) Review of Local Land Charges. A copy of that Briefing Note is attached at Annexe 'A'.
- 3.2 By way of background, EMRLGA state that commercial search companies have made multiple complaints to the OFT about many local authorities, claiming restrictive practices. The OFT has decided there is not an issue of restrictive practice to consider, but it has decided to undertake a market study.
- 3.3 EMRLGA believe that co-ordinated action is required by local government to fully and effectively contribute to the OFT's market study. Whilst each authority can respond to the forthcoming survey to help ensure full information is provided to the OFT. The immediate requirement is for each Authority to advise of one Officer and one Member contact point to assist in this review. It is suggested that the Officer contact be the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Committee is asked to nominate a Committee Member contact point.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 None arising directly from this report.

#### **5.0 Background Papers**

5.1 None.