

COUNCIL CABINET 6 April 2004.

Report of the Chair of the Planning and Environment Commission

Best Value Review of Development – Options Appraisal

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the options for service improvement are approved.
- 1.2 That within the Development Service particular emphasis should be given to the development of good electronic service access and electronic methods of consultation.
- 1.3 That an adequate training budget is provided.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Commission considers that the options for service improvement by the Development Service are well founded and likely to prove effective.
- 2.2. Good electronic service access and electronic methods of consultation are essential if the Development Service is to provide a high standard of service to its customers and if the Building Control function is to compete effectively with the private sector.
- 2.3. The Commission was concerned to hear that training budgets for the Development Service are already inadequate.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 At its meeting on 4 March 2004 the Planning and Environment Commission considered a report on the Options Appraisal element of the Best Value Review of Development
- 3.2 The Commission noted and were in support of the options set out in the report.
- 3.3 The Commission agreed that electronic methods of consultation and good electronic service access were essential if the Development Service was to provide a high standard of customer service and the Building Control function was to compete effectively with the private sector.
- 3.4 The Commission considered that without additional training it will not be possible for the Development Service to deliver some of the improvements to the service that have been identified in the Options Appraisal. The Commission was therefore concerned to hear that training budgets for the Development Service are already inadequate.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4. None.

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Background papers: None

List of appendices: Appendix 1 - Implications

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report.

Legal

2 None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Corporate Objectives and Priorities for Change

4. This report links to the following of the Council's Corporate Objectives and Priorities for Change. Objectives: Integrated and cost effective services. Priorities for Change: Responding to people's needs appropriately and deciding planning applications more quickly.

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