

Planning Review Steering Group

Meeting held: 10 May 2022

Attendees: Alderman Hills, Fielding
Councillors Callan, McGurk,
David Jackson, Moira Quinn, Denise Dickson
Mr J Mackinnon (external consultant)
Alderman Baird (observer)

1. Apologies:
Councillor Nicholl
2. Declarations of Interest:
None
3. Minutes of previous meeting:
Proposed by Cllr Callan to agree the minutes
Seconded by Cllr McGurk
Unanimously **agreed**.
4. Implementation Plan:

D Dickson took Members through the updated Planning Review Action Plan (previously circulated) and referred to minutes of meetings with RSUA and RTPI (previously circulated).

Councillor Callan requested a quarterly performance report be brought to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee. D Dickson advised that she will forward the Performance Report presented to Planning Committee for inclusion in the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

Mr Mackinnon advised that this Council should drive forward with reviewing the PADs process and he will provide contact details for Michael McCloud, Director in The Highlands Council, Scotland.

In reference to engaging with the Chamber, D Jackson advised that there is a meeting of the Economic Advisory Group on 08 June and he will encourage engagement.

In response to a query from Cllr Callan regarding the Planning Department Customer Survey, D Dickson advised that the survey would be ongoing. She advised that comments submitted initially are likely to be quite negative as this is the first opportunity for customers to make such comments on all aspects of

the Planning service but would hope that we will gain a better insight as the survey beds in.

In relation to the meeting with agents regarding the second homes issue, Mr Mackinnon agreed that the issue of second homes is wider than planning. He advised that the relationship and meetings with agents is a good news story.

In response to a query from Ald Fielding, D Dickson advised that recruitment of staff to fill vacant position at senior officer level is ongoing. Staff leave for a variety of reasons including permanent positions, promotions and other opportunities elsewhere. Moira Quinn referred to considering reasons why staff leave through an Exit Plan questionnaire. D Jackson advised that the terms and conditions in local government are very good compared to the private sector. However, staffing stability has become an issue in the last 6 months across Council.

Mr Mackinnon wished to pass on his thanks to D Dickson and her team for driving forward with these recommendations.

ACTION POINT: Quarterly performance report to be brought to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

ACTION POINT: Proceed to review PADs process.

5. AORB:
None

6. Date of Next Meeting: **September 2022**