

Appendix 1 to 121114 Cabinet Report - Summary of Recommendations of the Planning Peer Review Team

1. Set a clear political narrative for the long term future of the borough stressing the need and importance of homes, jobs, infrastructure and locally generated income/grant. Develop a 'golden thread' linking this to key corporate policy documents including the local plan.
2. Develop a coherent strategy for investment and growth which recognises the key role that planning performs. Examine opportunities for the release or reuse of land assets with partners to stimulate growth and economic development.
3. Develop an interim planning policy statement as part of local plan preparation process.
4. Re-examine resource allocations, especially in planning policy and enforcement to ensure that these match priorities and needs. Switch or increase resources to match priorities including pump priming, partnering and planning performance agreements (PPAs).
5. Develop systematic links between financial planning and local plan development / monitoring to help focus on costs and income in relation to non-national domestic rate, council tax and new homes bonus.
6. Establish an informal pre planning briefing for members of the planning committee including a review of strategic planning group.
7. Set up effective mandatory councillor training programme that is bespoke to meeting local needs. Develop wider training programme for councillors and officers to be delivered jointly where ever possible focusing on improving understanding of respective roles and the need for effective engagement.
8. Review the guidance and protocols in relation to section 106 to seek to front load the system and reach decisions more quickly on major applications.
9. Re – examine the scheme of delegation to allow the planning committee to focus on major applications.
10. Review the decision to suspend work on community infrastructure levy.
11. Undertake systematic review of the effectiveness of the service's methods of communication and access focussing on councillors, parish councils and service users.