

## **Scrutiny Committee**

Meeting to be held on Friday, 22 July 2016

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

### **Response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee's review of Planning Matters**

Appendix 'A' refers

Contact for further information:

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#### **Executive Summary**

The County Council's Scrutiny Committee has made recommendations following a review by a Task Group, formed at the request of CC Liz Oades.

The Task Group was formed because concerns had been expressed by some district councils regarding the scope, content and timeliness of Lancashire County Council responses to consultations on planning applications from district councils, particularly regarding education, highways and flood risk management.

District Councils were consulted on the draft recommendations, which have been subsequently modified following feedback.

This report sets out the response from the Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services to the Committee's recommendations. Some of the recommendations relate to the portfolios of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools. Where appropriate, their views have been sought.

#### **Recommendation**

The Committee is requested to note the support for all its recommendations from Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services.

## **Background and Advice**

The County Council's Scrutiny Committee has made recommendations following a review by a Task Group, formed at the request of County Councillor Liz Oades.

The Task Group was formed because concerns had been expressed by some district councils regarding the scope, content and timeliness of Lancashire County Council responses to consultations on planning applications by district councils, particularly regarding education, highways and flood risk management.

District Councils were consulted on the draft recommendations, which have been subsequently modified following feedback.

This report sets out the response from the Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services to the Committee's recommendations. Some of the recommendations relate to the portfolios of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools. Where appropriate, their views have been sought.

The Committee's recommendations at Appendix 'A' have had input from the following functions of the County Council:

- LCC Highways Officers
- LCC Flood Risk Management Officers
- LCC Education Officers
- LCC Planning Officers
- Lancashire Development Control Officers Group
- Chairs of District Council Planning Committees
- District Council Planning portfolio holders

The recommendations are supported, and adjustments will be made to operational practices to implement them. Some of the recommendations seek changes to district council practices. If achieved, these will help the County Council's highways development control team, the County Council's flood risk management team, and the school planning team.

## **Consultations**

N/A

## **Implications:**

The recommendations, if implemented, will improve the quality of planning determinations made by district councils. It will also lead to efficiency improvements in the services of the County Council that respond to district council planning consultations.

## **Risk management**

Not implementing the recommendations will mean the opportunity is lost to improve practices and determinations.

There are no direct financial implications. Implementing the recommendations might help to reduce the demand on some County Council services.

## **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		