

Planning Appeals

LEAD MEMBER: Councillor David Moore
LEAD OFFICER: Neil White, Scrutiny Officer

Recommendation: that the Panel is requested to consider the following recommendations and recommend to Council (via the Executive where appropriate) that:

- (1) The Development Services Manager’s review of the amount of planning decisions that are made by delegated authority should be commenced and submitted to the Planning Panel as soon as possible,**
- (2) The final version of the Copeland Local Plan 2001-2016 should be published as soon as possible,**
- (3) A convention should be introduced that members of the planning panel should have attended training on development control and planning issues before they can serve on the panel, and**
- (4) A further six month review of these recommendations be undertaken to ensure that satisfactory progress is made on these outstanding matters.**

1. BACKGROUND

The Panel may recall that in the last civic year it considered a number of recommendations from a task and finish group that had been set up to look at how appeals against planning decisions were dealt with by the council.

Once of those recommendations was to have a six month review of the recommendations to assess the effect of the changes made by the recommendations and that review has been undertaken by the Task and Finish Group.

The Economic Development and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its special meeting on 2 September 2008 considered and agreed the recommendations that are detailed above from this further review. The report of the Task and Finish Group is at Appendix “A”.

The Committee also considered the Development Control Performance Monitoring figures for 2007/08 and the first quarter of 2008/09. It also noted that training for Planning Panel members was ongoing and that the training was open to all members of the council.

3. CONCLUSION

The Panel is asked to consider these recommendations and to recommend on to the appropriate body any changes to its procedures it wishes to make in light of these recommendations.

List of Appendices

Appendix "A" – Appendix "A" – Report of the Planning Appeals Task and Finish Group

List of Background Documents:

None