

Mayor and Cabinet		
Title	Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on planning	
Contributor	Sustainable Development Select Committee	Item
Class	Part 1 (open)	11 January 2017

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee, arising from discussions about the Council's planning and development management services.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to note the views of the select committee as set out in this report and ask the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to respond.

3. Sustainable Development Select Committee views

- 3.1 On 29 October 2016, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered four officer reports about the Council's planning service, these were:
- Planning key policies and procedures
 - Planning enforcement
 - Planning - use of section 106 funding and community infrastructure levy
 - Planning - annual monitoring report
- 3.2 The Committee resolved to advise Mayor and Cabinet of the following:
- 3.3 The Committee commends the new Head of Planning. The Committee places on record its thanks for the work officers undertake to engage with elected members.
- 3.4 In relation to the reports it considered, the Committee resolved to advise Mayor and Cabinet of the following:
- Planning key policies and procedures
- 3.5 The Committee recommends that officers review the effectiveness of the Council's policy on the protection of pubs.
- 3.6 The Committee requests a diagram, which sets out all of the current local and regional planning policy documents. It asks that the key opportunities and dates for engagement with Councillors on the development of these plans be included. The

Committee intend to actively participate in consultations and engagement activities for all key planning policies and procedures at a local level and want to ensure that local views are represented in regional consultation as those opportunities arise.

Planning enforcement

- 3.7 The Committee recommends that further work be carried out to develop a customer relations management system for the Council's enforcement activities. The Committee is concerned that there is not a clear and collaborative approach, between teams dealing with enforcement activities at the Council, for dealing with reports of activities from residents that may require enforcement action. The Committee believes that a single, universally accessible management system for officers would help to manage the flow of information and complaints as well as improving the reputation of the Council in dealing with residents' concerns.
- 3.8 The Committee believes that further clarity should be provided to residents for those cases in which building control and planning activities overlap. In particular, the Committee recommends that any letters issued to residents by either service include guidance about contacting the Council's other enforcement teams.

Planning use of section 106 and CIL

- 3.9 The Committee is concerned about the sustainability of neighbourhood forums. It is also concerned that neighbourhood forums might not be representative of their local populations.
- 3.10 The Committee recommends that the Council produces guidance for groups establishing neighbourhood forums, to encourage the inclusion of local councillors in their membership.
- 3.11 The Committee also recommends that conditions be placed on funding allocated to neighbourhood forums to ensure that, should a forum fail, any funding it has been allocated will be returned to the Council for reallocation.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se; but there may financial implications arising from carrying out the action proposed by the Committee.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

6. Further implications

- 6.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider. However, there may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

Background papers

Reports to the Sustainable Development Select Committee on planning:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=4174&Ver=4>

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager) on 02083147916 or email timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk