

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE PLANNING SERVICE

Report By: Planning Service Scrutiny Review Group

Wards Affected

County-wide.

Purpose

1. To consider the findings of the Planning Service Scrutiny Review Group following the Review.

Financial Implications

2. This is dependant on decisions made in response to the review's recommendations.

Background

2. Environment Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 31st March 2008, briefly considered a suggestion made by the Cabinet Member (Environment & Strategic Housing) that a Scrutiny review be undertaken into the Planning Service. On 9th June 2008 the Committee considered a report highlighting that while the Planning Service had enjoyed wide ranging success in recent years, the challenge for the future was to respond locally to the national Planning Reform agenda. At the heart of this is the move from land use to a spatial planning system as the Council rolls out the Local Development Framework and delivers the new Growth Points agenda. The Committee agreed the terms of reference for the review and agreed the membership (see section 1.3 and 1.4 respectively in the attached document).
3. The Review Group's report setting out its approach to its task, its findings, and recommendations is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT (a) the Committee considers the report of the Planning Service Scrutiny Review Group, in particular its recommendations, and determines whether it wishes to agree the findings for submission to Cabinet.

(b) subject to the Review being approved, the Executive's response to the Review, including an action plan, be reported to the first available meeting of the Committee after the Executive has approved its response;

and;

- (c) a further report on progress in response to the Review be made after six months with consideration then being given to the need for any further reports to be made.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified other than those specified in the attached report.