

MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	28 MAY 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE 2009 - 2010
MEMBERSHIP:	<p>TW HUNT (CHAIRMAN), RV STOCKTON (VICE-CHAIRMAN), ACR CHAPPELL, PGH CUTTER, H DAVIES, GFM DAWE, DW GREENOW, KS GUTHRIE, JW HOPE, B HUNT, G LUCAS, RI MATTHEWS, PM MORGAN, JE PEMBERTON, AP TAYLOR, DC TAYLOR, WJ WALLING, PJ WATTS AND JD WOODWARD.</p> <p>COUNCILLOR RC HUNT REPLACED COUNCILLOR PM MORGAN WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 2010</p>

CLASSIFICATION: This is an open report.

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To inform the Council of the activities of the Committee during the previous year.

THE NEW COMMITTEE SYSTEM

1. Up to December 2009 the Committee continued its operation under the terms of the former Constitution. It dealt primarily with planning applications of a strategic nature together with planning applications referred from the Area Sub Committees. In addition it dealt with a range of planning policy matters.
2. The Council in response to the report on Planning Services from the Audit Commission and the Review undertaken by the Environment Scrutiny Committee reconsidered the delivery of the planning service. It was concluded that from 2010 there should be a single Planning Committee comprising of 19 Members, together with a revision to the Scheme of Delegated Powers to Officers. Particular tribute was paid to all the Chairmen, Vice Chairman and Members who had served on the outgoing Area Planning Sub-Committees and their contribution to the delivery of the planning service since 1998.
3. The Constitution, in addition, has introduced significant changes to the role of Ward Members specifically in relation to their role in the determination of planning applications submitted to the Planning Committee by enhancing their role in the planning process. Further changes have been made in relation to the procedure whereby Members can request that applications be redirected to the Planning

Committee and the procedure to be followed where the Committee are minded to determine applications contrary to the Officer recommendation. In addition there are procedures in place to bring a closer working relationship between Members and application Case Officers,

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

4. Different venues have been explored for meetings of the Committee when there are applications which attract a large public attendance. Shirehall and Town Hall. Have been used and Brockington has also been able to accommodate larger numbers through splitting the meeting into morning and afternoon sessions and specifying when applications were likely to be dealt with in each session so that interested parties could attend the appropriate one.
5. The Committee has determined a number of significant and complex applications which have County-wide implications as well as an impact on local communities. These have included the replacement of Wyebridge School in Hereford, new livestock market for Hereford, the Yazor Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme and the Link Road for the Edgar Street Grid scheme. The Committee also considered applications for alterations to Grange Court Leominster which will bring this important historic building back into public use and help to secure its future. Other significant decisions have been made in respect of applications for polytunnel developments and associated worker accommodation.
6. The new Committee has had a full workload with six meetings having been held and some thirty-two applications considered. These meetings have varied significantly in length and following monitoring of the new arrangements, some changes will be made for 2010/2011 when the frequency of meetings will be increased to a three-week cycle. There will also be a full review of the new arrangements in due course.

POLICY MATTERS

4. During the past year the former Committee and the new Committee been consulted about the following policy matters relating to the Council's Local Development Framework and expressed their views to the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing)
 - Draft Supplementary Planning Document on Archaeology and Development;
 - Regional Spatial Strategy : Inspectors' Panel Report – September 2009;
 - Local Development Framework : Update Report October 2009;
 - Annual Monitoring Report 2008-2009; and
 - Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan - saved policies

T.W. HUNT
CHAIRMAN
PLANNING COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND PAPERS Agendas for the meetings of the Planning Committees held during 2009/2010.