

report



meeting Administration Committee

date

agenda item number

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CULTURE & COMMUNITY AND THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

MEMBER TRAINING ON PLANNING AND RELATED ISSUES

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for attendance at a Member training event at County Hall on 10th October 2005 at 9.30 a.m.
2. Approval is sought for all members to attend for the following reasons:-
 - To provide members with information regarding the new planning system that is not within the remit of the Planning and Licensing Committee;
 - To inform members of the statutory requirements when approving plans/draft plans and in making observations on plans of other bodies and on planning applications being determined by other authorities;
 - To ensure that relevant aspects of the corporate strategy of this Authority are appropriately reflected in plans prepared by other bodies.
3. The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act represents the biggest single change in the planning system in the country since the 1947 Town and County Planning Act, and the provisions of the 2004 Act greatly affects the role of the County Council in the planning system. Parts of the 2004 Act are still being implemented and some of the detailed arrangements of those parts of the Act that have been implemented have yet to be determined. Inevitably, there is a steep learning curve for members and officers of this Council in getting to grips with the new planning system and the transitional arrangements that have been put into place.
4. It is important that the training is undertaken by mid-Autumn as the Authority will be considering various Plans later in the year and will be

considering observations on regional pan documents also at that time. Budgetary provision exists for the event.

Statutory and Policy Implications

5. This report is necessary to ensure compliance with the Council's current arrangements for approving attendance at conferences, seminars and Member Training events. The training will provide information to ensure that wider Council policies are taken into due consideration in decisions and comments on town and country planning matters.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. That the training event be authorised for all members.

Legal Services' Comments

7. The Administration Committee is responsible for determining the level and nature of support services for Members of the County Council. The Committee also has the delegated authority to approve expenditure to be incurred for Member attendance at conferences and seminars. The proposal in this Report is therefore within the remit of this Committee.

Director of Resources' Financial Comments

8. The cost of up to £700 will be funded from public consultations budget within the Leaders Portfolio.

Background Papers Available for Public Inspection

None

Electoral Division(s) Affected

All