

AGENDA ITEM NO.

TO: EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – 14TH MARCH 2006

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISHMENT – DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

FROM: HEAD OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for the designation of a post as part of the permanent establishment for Planning and Engineering

2. BACKGROUND

Following the Best Value Review of the Planning Service during 2002, funding was provided for increasing the establishment of the Unit in order to deal with increasing workloads. These workloads have continued to increase since that time.

In addition to permanent Planning Officer posts, permanent funding was also made available for the employment of a temporary member of staff in the form of provision for a year out student. This is a means of securing an important contribution to the work of the Department and assisting in the development of planners who are part way through their planning courses and who will then come into the profession with greater experience and ability.

The funding commitment is set at the Band F level, with students to be paid up to that amount depending on experience and qualification. . Because of the temporary nature of the post, there was no need to incorporate it into the Establishment.

However, in a market where Planning graduates are hard to come by and where it is necessary to offer a greater degree of certainty in order to attract staff to work for the District, it would be appropriate to be able to offer the post on a permanent basis. This will enable me to be more flexible in securing resources to undertake the heavy work loads in Development Control. For this to take place, it is necessary for the formal agreement of this Committee for the post to be placed on the Establishment

3. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK

The post is in place and is working to achieve the Planning Policies and targets set by the Council for the Planning Service. There are no budget implications as there is already permanent budget provision for the post

4. **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee approves the formal addition of the Student planner post to the Establishment and for it to be redesignated as Planning Officer

JOHN ARCHER
HEAD OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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