

	Standards Committee 4 April 2012	Agenda Item No. 5
Title	Review of Proposed Development Review Forum	
For further information about this report please contact	Gary Stephens, Development Manager	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	May 17 th 2010, Standards Committee	
Background Papers	http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/WDC/Planning/Planning+applications/Proposed+development+review+forum.htm	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		
Head of Service		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)		
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Final Decision?	N/A	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Standards Committee requested earlier this year they review the Proposed Development Review Forum. This report sets out the background to the Forum and describes how it has operated so far.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Standards Committee note the content of the report.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1. Planning Committee considered at its meeting of the 6 January 2010 to introduce Councillors involvement at the pre-application stage of development (i.e. before submission of a planning application to the Council). A copy of the report is attached as Appendix A which sets out the justification and purpose of Councillors involvement. The Committee resolved to approve a protocol for the operation of a Development Forum (attached as Appendix B). This protocol came into force in April 2010 and sets out how the Forum should operate in practice.
- 3.2. The Forum has met on four occasions in its first 18 months, with a number of requests outstanding for future meetings. The Forum has received presentations from the landowners/prospective developers of:
- the Former Ford Foundry in Leamington Spa;
 - the Warwickshire Police Headquarters in Leek Wootton;
 - Quarry Farm, Old Milverton; and,
 - land at Warwick Gates, Warwick.
- 3.3. The presentations are available to view on the District Council's website, along with a summary of the questions and answers from the Forum. Members of the Standards Committee were invited to attend the most recent Forum on the 20th September regarding land at Warwick Gates in order to observe its operation.
- 3.4. The Forum appears to be working well and a number of prospective developers have taken up the opportunity to attend. Positive feedback has been received from those developers who have presented to the Forum. Officers are happy with its operation, although there are some minor changes to improve its operation which will be considered in due course.
- 3.5. The approach of the Council to its Forum is also consistent with the Government's recently published Draft National Planning Policy Framework which encourages pre-application engagement with developers.

4. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 **Policy Framework** – not applicable
- 4.2 **Fit for the Future** – not applicable

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

5.1 The operation of the Forum does create additional work for officers in facilitating and attending the meeting which is currently absorbed within existing budgets.

6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

6.1 Not applicable.