

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:

TO: EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE – 19th SEPTEMBER 2006

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT CHANGES - PLANNING

FROM: PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To request approval for amendments to the Structure of the Development Control and Policy, Projects and Conservation Groups

1.2 To request approval for additional permanent posts.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The structure of the development Control and Policy Teams within Planning has been reviewed during the course of the year in the light of changing demands on the Service and consistently high work loads. As a temporary response to some of these pressures, additional staff have been appointed on a temporary basis, funded by the provisions of the Planning Development Grant (PDG) allocations made to this Council to assist in the delivery of Planning Services

2.1.1 The conclusion of the review was that it was necessary to undertake amendments to each of the Teams under review as follows:

Development Control

2.1.2 Planning Appeal and Enforcement work has been undertaken by a separate Appeals and Enforcement Team within Development Control. The review concluded that it would be appropriate to revise this approach, retaining the team for all enforcement work, but enabling some appeal work to be handled within the Area Teams dealing with applications. This would give better continuity on the less complex applications and allow an improved balance of work. At the same time, enforcement work remains at a high level and in order to maintain a response to pressures, the addition of a further part time enforcement Officer post to the team is required. In order to achieve these objectives, the following is proposed:

- Transfer one existing Planning Officer Post from Appeals and Enforcement to the Eastern Area Team
- Creation of a permanent full time Planning Officer post within the Western Area Team (currently occupied on a temporary basis and funded through PDG)
- Creation of a permanent, part time Enforcement Officer post within the A&E Team (currently occupied on a temporary basis and funded through PDG)

Policy, Projects and Conservation

2.1.3 The work of the Team has increased considerably with the requirements arising from the new Planning System introduced through the new Planning Act and additional staffing is required in order to meet its demands. This is proposed to be achieved as follows:

- Creation of two permanent, full time Planning Officers (one at present currently occupied on a temporary basis and funded through PDG)

Funding

2.1.4. The issue of funding was considered by the Executive at its meeting of 24th July. At this meeting, Executive considered the disposition of the PDG funding allocation, the areas where additional staff resources were required and agreed that the new posts as set out above should be funded by PDG. It recognised that although they could only be funded by this years PDG to 08/09, future PDG would enable funding to continue in future years. On that basis, Executive resolved as follows:

(1) the allocation of Planning Development Grant as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and

(2) the following temporary posts, funded at this stage until the end of 2008/9 be made permanent:

- *Planning Officer – Policy, Projects and Conservation -2x posts*
- *Planning Officer – Development Control*
- *Enforcement Officer (part time)*

Establishment changes

2.1.4 The above proposals can be brought into effect by the following changes to the establishment:

- DC Planning Officer post N02056 to be transferred from Appeal and enforcement to Development Control East
- Permanent full time DC Planning Officer post N02045 to be created in Development Control East
- Permanent p/t (17 hours) Enforcement Officer post N02066 to be created in Appeals and Enforcement
- 2x permanent full time Planning Officer posts N03051 and N03052 to be created in Policy, Projects and Conservation

3. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK

3.1 Provision of the posts has been agreed by the Executive who have authorised their funding through PDG and agreed the necessity of their being permanent posts. The necessary amendments to the Establishment need, however, to be agreed by the Employment Committee

4. . RECOMMENDATION

Members agree the recommendations in section 3 of the report

Key Decision: No

Included in Forward Plan: No

For further information about this report please contact:

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