

SUBJECT:	<i>Exemplary Planning Service Action Plan</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Cllr P Martin & Cllr J Read</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Steve Bambrick</i>
REPORT AUTHOR	<i>Andrew Ashcroft, aashcroft@chiltern.gov.uk</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All Wards</i>

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the draft Exemplary Planning Service Action Plan (as set out at Appendix 1).

The PAG is asked to advise the Portfolio Holder on the following recommendation to Cabinet:

RECOMMENDATION to Cabinet

- 1. To approve the Action Plan for the delivery of an exemplary Planning Service.**

The Cabinet to consider the advice of the Portfolio Holder and any comments arising from the PAG.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The attached report sets out key principles for the delivery of an exemplary Planning Service and an Action Plan for doing so.
- 2.2 It sets out a clear route map to take the Planning Service from its current position to that of an exemplary service. It sets out a series of short, medium and longer term actions. Several of the actions inevitably overlap with the on-going work around the implementation of a shared planning service.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The work on the shared planning service has identified a need for a long term vision within which the various process changes can be delivered. This work has also identified that there are opportunities to take the shared planning service from the current position in which it finds itself to an exemplary position. This approach builds on the long standing high performance of both Councils on the speed of processing planning applications.

4. Content of Report

- 4.1 The details of the Action Plan are set out in the attached report. The actions are set out under short, medium and longer term issues.

- 4.2 The actions are based around an assessment of the shared planning service as it existed in January 2018. This assessment was based against a comparison of the service at that time with the concept of a generalised exemplary service which is set out in the initial part of the report.
- 4.3 Since that time, some of the short term actions have now either been delivered or have been started. In these circumstances they are shown as such in the attached report.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the Portfolio Holders.
- 5.2 The draft Exemplary Planning Service Action Plan has been shared with all planning staff at a series of lunchtime briefings.

6. Options (if any)

- 6.1 Do not pursue an exemplary service. This is not recommended as the service needs a range of improvements in any event. In making changes it appears best to strive for excellence.

7. Corporate Implications

7.1 Financial

There are no direct financial implications of this report. Major initiatives such as the production of the Joint Local Plan and the implementation of a shared planning registration system are already agreed within the Service's budget. Other initiatives are based around a different form or service delivery rather than actions which would require direct financial expenditure.

7.2 Legal

The delivery of an exemplary planning service does not, in itself, change the statutory or legal requirements within which the service operates.

7.3 Other Matters

This report has no direct implications for – Crime and Disorder, Environmental Issues, ICT, Partnership, Procurement, Social Inclusion, Sustainability.

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- 8.1 The delivery of an exemplary planning service will assist in the delivery of
- Key Theme 1: Thriving Economy
 - Key Theme 2: Sustainable Environment
 - Key Theme 5: Cohesive and Strong Communities

Key Objectives available here:

<http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/Aims-and-Objectives>

<http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/prioritiesandperformance>

9. Next Steps

- 9.1 The Action Plan sets out a series of actions in the short, medium and longer term.
- 9.2 The implementation of the various actions will be incorporated into future service plans and will be monitored by the Head of Planning & Economic Development and the two Portfolio Holders.

Background Papers:	None, other than those referred to in the report.
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