

Suggested Member Training Programme

A report by Head of Planning Applications Unit to Planning Applications Committee on 19th June 2007

Recommendation: Members endorse a regular training programme

Local Member: n/a

Unrestricted

1. In November 2006, the Committee endorsed a strategy that proposed a regular training programme for Members of the Committee and regular substitutes. To date, sessions have been delivered on PPS25 planning and flood risk and sustainable design and construction, which considered design and planning and briefly addressed the design implication of renewable energy issues. This report seeks to set out a suggested programme for future delivery.
2. The Committee's support has previously been given for training on a bi or tri-monthly basis, i.e. 4 – 6 per year. Members will be aware that we have tried to schedule training events on the afternoon of the Planning Applications Committee. That however potentially conflicts with Members' site visits. I therefore suggest that the Committee Clerk be asked to secure additional dates in the County Council's formal diary for next year to facilitate training and to minimise this conflict. In the interim we will continue to arrange training at dates convenient to the Committee.

Suggested Topics

3. The work of the Planning Applications Committee is varied and gives rise to a variety of training opportunities. Suggested topics for delivery in the future could usefully address:
 - Planning White Paper – the key issues
 - Design and Planning – follow on session as requested at the Kent Architecture Centre, Historic Dockyard, Chatham
 - Learning from the past – tour of permitted sites in the County
 - Legal Agreements
 - Landscape and Biodiversity - considerations for development control
 - Heritage Issues - considerations for development control
 - Mineral Planning - considerations for development control
 - Waste Planning – current issues /technologies
 - Future Energy Issues - follow on session
 - Kent's Emerging Waste Development Framework – current position
 - Kent's Emerging Minerals Development Framework – current position
 - South East Plan – Regional Planning policy context
4. Members' views are invited on the suggested topics and the priority for delivery. In my view there would be merit in arranging the tour of permitted sites before the winter and for the follow on sessions on design and energy issues to take place this year. With the exception of the tour, I would envisage that the majority of

the training events could be undertaken in a half-day slot.

Recommendation

5. I RECOMMEND that Members

- (i) endorse a regular training programme for the Members of the Committee and regular substitutes to address issues pertinent to the business of the Committee;
- (ii) require the Committee Clerk to secure an additional half-day slot for this purpose in the Council's formal diary from 2008;.
- (iii) Members agree dates for the training events for the remainder of 2007

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| Case Officer: Sharon Thompson |
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| Tel. No. 01622 696052 |
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| Background Documents: see section heading. |
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