

# Item 6

## STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 JUNE 2007

## REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

### DEVELOPMENT CONTROL – RECRUITMENT OF TWO SENIOR OFFICERS

#### SUMMARY

At its meeting on 9 January 2007, Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 considered an item that had been referred by Overview & Scrutiny 3 regarding '*Progress towards the achievement of Best Value Performance Indicator 204 - The Percentage of Appeals allowed against the Authority's decision to refuse on planning applications*'. The role of Overview & Scrutiny 1 was to examine the pay structure within the Development Control Division including an analysis of comparative salaries in adjacent authorities and the cost and implications of using temporary agency staff to fill posts.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee 1 recommended that 'an interim report on developments following proposals to address staffing issues in Development Control Division be received in 3 months and a full report in 6 months'.

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Committee note the content of the report.

#### DETAIL

1. At its meeting on 9 January 2007, the Director of Neighbourhood Services attended this meeting to discuss the pay structure within the Development Control Division and the plan to recruit two Senior Development Control Officers to the division.
2. Following a recruitment process, three vacant posts have been filled to strengthen the Development Control Team with effect from 21 May 2007. The three posts are a Principal Development Control Officer, Development Control Officer and a Planning Enforcement Officer.
3. The Principal Development Control Officer, together with the other senior officer in the team will assist the Development Control Manager

in the day to day management and supervision of the team, as well as deal with the more complex and contentious planning applications.

4. The Development Control Officer will provide much needed support for the other development control officers dealing with the more routine, but nevertheless demanding, workload. Whilst the Planning Enforcement Officer will conduct investigations into alleged breaches of planning control and is already tackling the backlog of cases that have built up since the departure of the previous Enforcement Officer.
5. Successful recruitment to these posts will address staffing issues with the Development Control Team and contribute significantly to improved performance and the quality of service the team aims to deliver.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

None

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<b>Wards</b>	Non-specific
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<b>Background Papers</b>	None
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