

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
INTERNAL AFFAIRS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	17 OCTOBER 2023	6
PLANNING PEER REVIEW – PROPOSED ACTION PLAN			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

RELEVANT LEAD MEMBER

This item is within the remit of Lead Member for Corporate and Economic Development (Councillor K Buckley)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

As part of its continuous review of services, the council invited the Planning Advisory Service to carry out a peer review of the council's planning service. Feedback on a draft action plan, developed to address the recommendations that emerged from the review, has been considered through the council's scrutiny process to arrive at a final draft of the action plan, which is now placed before the Executive Committee for consideration.

The Executive Committee are asked to consider the amendments made to the draft action plan through the scrutiny process, to approve the final draft of the Planning Peer Review Action Plan and to ask the Internal Affairs Scrutiny Committee to oversee the delivery of the action plan.

RECOVERABILITY

This decision is recoverable under section 7 of part 3 of the constitution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee are recommended to:

1. Accept the amendments to the Planning Peer Review Action Plan recommended by the Internal Affairs Scrutiny Committee,
2. Approve and adopt the Planning Peer Review Action Plan, and
3. Request the Internal Affairs Scrutiny Committee to oversee and monitor delivery of the approved action plan.

REPORT

1. On 8 June 2022 Planning Committee agreed the scope for a Planning Advisory Service (PAS) review of Fylde Council's Planning Service. PAS set out the process for a Peer Challenge in a proposal letter dated 27th June 2022, with the on-site peer challenge taking place from 5 - 7 October 2022. The final report was received in December 2022 and presented to the Planning Committee as an information item on 18 January 2023. The review's final report includes recommendations drawn from the evidence provided to the team and from desk top research on the service, with the rationale for each recommendation being included in the report. The

recommendations outline areas the council should address to achieve improvements to the planning service as well as to the relationship between the service, the council and other stakeholders.

2. In order to address the recommendations contained in the report, a draft Planning Action Plan was developed and presented to the Planning Committee on 8 March 2023. The Planning Committee resolved to approve the draft action plan and asked that it be circulated to stakeholders for comment and feedback prior to adoption through the new governance arrangements.
3. On 8 June 2023 a scoping report was presented to the Internal Affairs Scrutiny Committee who requested the Head of Planning to review the feedback received and make any changes to the Action Plan that he considered necessary ahead of the action plan being scrutinised via an abbreviated spotlight review and the reporting of the conclusions of the review to the Executive Committee for consideration.
4. The abbreviated spotlight review took place on 24 August 2023, when the appointed sub-group reviewed the draft action plan as amended by the Head of Planning and considered the feedback that had been received on the original draft. The sub-group recommended further changes to the action plan and agreed a schedule of responses to the feedback.
5. The final draft of the Planning Peer Review Action Plan is attached as appendix 1. To assist members in identifying how the action plan has developed since it was first drafted, appendix 2 contains a tracked version of the report which indicates the initial changes made by the Head of Planning in red and the further changes recommended through the abbreviated spotlight review in blue.
6. In summary, since the initial draft plan was considered by the Planning Committee in March 2023, the key changes to the action plan are as follows:
 - Full supporting text of recommendations added to ensure context of recommendation is clear and context for Fylde deleted to avoid repetition.
 - Target dates amended, confirmed as completion dates and assigned to individual actions to ensure clarity, assist monitoring and ensure achievability.
 - Priorities changed to impacts to clarify delivery timeframes.
 - Indicators of success added to assist in monitoring delivery of the action plan.
 - Individual actions identified to allow effective monitoring.
 - Monitoring Framework added to assist in monitoring the overall impact of the action plan.
7. The schedule of responses to the feedback agreed by the scrutiny sub-group is attached as appendix 3.
8. The Executive Committee is requested to consider the amendments made via the scrutiny process and approve the Planning Peer Review Action Plan. The Internal Affairs Scrutiny Committee has asked that regular updates be provided to them to allow the implementation of the action plan to be monitored and its effectiveness in improving the service to be assessed.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	Any projects identified in the action plan that require resourcing that cannot be met from within existing budgets will be the subject of further reports to the Executive Committee.
Legal	None
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS
<p>On 20 June 2023 - Internal Affairs Scrutiny Committee RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Evans reviews the comments received as part of the consultation process set against the draft action plan; and 2. If considered necessary, makes amendments to the draft plan, and; 3. Amends the dates as detailed within the Scrutiny Review Scoping Template to reflect a realistic current timeframe; and following the above process 4. A group of identified Members of the Committee (Councillors Damian Buckley, Griffiths, Kirkham, Redcliffe and Fazackerley) review the amended action plan via an abbreviated spotlight review; and 5. The group make recommendations to the Executive Committee with regard to the proposed final draft action plan. <p>On 8 March 2023 – Planning Committee - RESOLVED to approve the draft PAS Review Action Plan included at Appendix 1 to the report to be circulated to stakeholders for comment and feedback prior to adoption through the new governance arrangements.</p> <p>On 8 June 2022 – Planning Committee RESOLVED to approve the scope of the Planning Advisory Service Review and emphasised that the Peer Review Team be specifically asked to meet with representatives of local Town and Parish Councils and to review and comment on the implementation of actions set out in the previous review which took place in 2012.</p>

BACKGROUND PAPERS REVELANT TO THIS ITEM		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Planning Service Peer Challenge – Feedback Report	January 2023	FBC Website

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Mark Evans	mark.evans@fylde.gov.uk & Tel 01253 658460	September 2023

Attached documents

- Appendix 1 - Planning Peer Review Action Plan (Final Draft)
- Appendix 2 - Planning Peer Review Action Plan (with Tracked changes)
- Appendix 3 - Schedule of responses to feedback on draft action plan