



<b>Subject:</b>	Planning Committee Continuing Development Programme
<b>Date:</b>	18 August 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jill Minne, Director of Organisational Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	

<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
	To advise the committee of a proposed continuing development programme, to be delivered from August 2015, to further support members in their Planning committee role.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Members are asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Agree the draft proposed continuing development programme (for the period September to December 2015) and suggest any additional topics or activities that would be of benefit in further supporting members.</li><li>2. Note that to accommodate members' attendance the short interactive sessions will be held at the start of each scheduled second monthly Planning Committee meeting with the first session being delivered at the start of the scheduled 20 August 2015 Planning Committee meeting.</li><li>3. Note that some sessions will also be delivered to other elected members given the related nature of the committee roles.</li></ol>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u> Recent feedback received from members of the Planning Committee has suggested refresher training on key planning issues and sessions on the more strategic elements would be beneficial. Members may also recall that a session on Planning's link to health, community planning and regeneration was included in the capacity building programme delivered for the Shadow Planning Committee. Given Members' preference however for more practical based sessions, in the lead up to 1 April, this session did not take place.  To address the issues raised by members a draft proposed continuing development

programme, detailing the initial sessions and the indicative content, is set out at appendix one. The main topics relate to:

- The principles of decision- making
- The Planning element of the Code of Conduct
- The Local Development Plan
- Planning's link to regeneration, community planning and health; and
- Development management refresher session.

To accommodate members' attendance the short interactive sessions will be held at the start of each scheduled second monthly Planning Committee meeting. Should additional sessions be required these will be delivered as lunchtime and/or evening sessions.

The remaining content of the programme will be agreed with Members as they progress through the programme and gain more experience as a member of the Planning Committee. This will assist in determining other key issues and topics that Members may wish to have included. Short review sessions have been included in the programme in September and December to give Members a formal opportunity to provide feedback on the sessions delivered to date and to identify other topics or key issues they wish to have included going forward.

Members are aware that the first session entitled '*Principles of Decision-Making*' will be delivered on 20 August. This session will be the overarching session which will set the context for the remainder of the programme.

#### Financial & Resource Implications

The programme sessions will be delivered in the main by senior officers with input from key speakers, where appropriate. The costs of any externally facilitated activities will be met from the corporate organisational development budget.

Corporate Human Resources will work with key senior officers to co-ordinate the delivery of the Planning Committee continuing development programme.

#### Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations implications.

**4.0**

#### **Appendices – Documents Attached**

Appendix one: Draft Planning Committee Continuing Development Programme 2015-2016

## Appendix One: Planning Committee – DRAFT Continuing Development Programme (2015-2016)

Session title	Session aims	Indicative content	Attendees	Date and time	Facilitator
<b>1. Principles of Decision-Making</b>	<p>To provide Members with an objective understanding and appreciation of their individual and collective council responsibilities in making good decisions.</p> <p>To provide Members with an understanding of action- legal, policy and accountability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the reformed planning regime</li> <li>• Strategic leadership role</li> <li>• Policy as the basis for decision-making</li> <li>• Members' role - accountability and decision-making</li> <li>• Legal principles for decision-makers</li> <li>• Legal challenges to decisions</li> <li>• Scrutiny and challenge- Judicial Reviews</li> <li>• Plan led system</li> <li>• Material considerations</li> <li>• Role of planning policy and human rights</li> </ul>	Planning Committee Members	<p>Thursday 20 August 2015</p> <p>4.30pm to 6pm</p>	Stewart Beattie, Q,C with input from John Walsh, Town Solicitor.
<b>2. Code of Conduct – Planning element</b>	To provide Members with an objective understanding and appreciation of their individual and collective council responsibilities in making good planning decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detail of Planning Guidance</li> <li>• Application of the Code of Conduct to Planning Matters</li> <li>• Planning role and responsibilities of elected members- accountability &amp; decision-making</li> <li>• Principles and rules of conduct</li> <li>• Conflicts of Interest</li> <li>• Disclosure and declaration of interests</li> <li>• Maladministration</li> <li>• Enforcement of the Code</li> <li>• Introduction to fraud</li> <li>• Introduction to Bribery Act</li> </ul>	Planning Committee Members	<p>Thursday 17 September 2015</p> <p>4.30pm to 6pm</p>	NI Ombudsman Office with input from Legal Services, Democratic Services, Audit, Governance & Risk Services.

Session title	Session aims	Indicative content	Attendees	Date and time	Facilitator
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk to the Council, including those arising from new powers Council responses/</li> <li>• Arrangements</li> <li>• Review of sessions to date and discussion on other issues to be covered in the programme.</li> </ul>		Review session- 6pm to 6.30pm	
<b>3. Planning Decisions, Local Development Plan, BMAP and Policy Development</b>	<p>To develop Members' understanding of the key stages involved in taking the local development plan from conception to adoption within agreed timescales and without unnecessary delay and conflict.</p> <p>To assist members in making sound planning decisions to support local economic development, community needs and policy objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving our vision for the city – Belfast Agenda and the role of Planning in shaping Belfast City.</li> <li>• Community Planning</li> <li>• Spatial development</li> <li>• Purpose of Planning and role of Elected Members</li> <li>• Making better decisions for places</li> <li>• The plan-making process and key stages</li> <li>• Community involvement and stakeholder engagement</li> <li>• Working within the Policy framework</li> <li>• Planning Appeals</li> </ul>	Planning Committee Members	<p>Thursday 22 October 2015</p> <p>4.30pm to 6pm</p>	To be confirmed
<b>4. Planning's link to Regeneration, Community Planning and Health</b>	To provide Members with an understanding of how planning can help deliver wider city, corporate and community aspirations for a better future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning set in the wider context of sustainable development and key planning principles</li> <li>• Purposes of Planning and linkages and synergies with wider regeneration and community planning</li> </ul>	Planning Committee Members	<p>Thursday 19 November 2015</p> <p>4.30pm to 6pm</p>	To be confirmed

Session title	Session aims	Indicative content	Attendees	Date and time	Facilitator
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Centre Regeneration</li> <li>• Opportunities for the future.</li> <li>• Interface between planning and regeneration and community planning as key place-shaping enablers</li> <li>• Linkage between the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan</li> <li>• Community involvement and consultation</li> </ul>	All elected members to attend a session.	Date(s) to be confirmed.	
<b>5. Development Management</b>	<p>To provide Members with an objective understanding and appreciation of their individual and collective council responsibilities in making good planning decisions.</p> <p>To enable Members to make sound planning decisions to support planning decisions to support local economic development, community needs and policy objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Development Management process and key stages-different planning permissions, decision-making, enforcement</li> <li>• Community Involvement and stakeholder engagement</li> <li>• Discussion on learning to date from Planning Committee experience, the programme sessions to date what other issues may need to be covered in the programme.</li> </ul>	Planning Committee Members	<p>Thursday 17 December 2015</p> <p>4.30pm to 6pm</p> <p>Review session- 6pm to 6.30pm</p>	To be confirmed

