

# PROPOSAL FORM FOR ITEMS FOR FOR CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

**Submitted by:**

Cllr Paul Parker, Cllr Suzanne Sanders

**Item for Consideration:**

To Review Teignbridge District Council Planning Policy Implementation and Planning Department Performance

**Expected outcome i.e. new policy, new action, new partnership, review and/or scrutinise the performance of other public bodies or of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas:**

Conduct and overview and review of TDC Planning Department past and current performance and make recommendations to improve Planning future performance

**Priority for matter to be considered ✓ :**

High (up to 3 months)

Medium (3-6 months)

Low (over 9 months).

Basis on which priority has been set

Planning is a consistent and pressing area of concern for the residents of Teignbridge District Council

**The suggested item should be included in future programme(s) because: (please tick as appropriate) ✓**

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| (a) It is a district level function over which the district has some control                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) It is a recently introduced policy, service area of activity which would be timely to review . | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| (c) It is a policy which has been running for some time and is due for review                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) It is a major proposal for change  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| (e) It is an issue raised via complaints received  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (f) It is an area of public concern  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (g) It is an area of poor performance  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (h) It would be of benefit to residents of the district  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(i) Which of the Council's objectives does the issue address?

The Council object is to be a Community Powered Council committed to delivering high quality efficient and effective front line services.

(j) Is there a deadline for the Council to make a decision? (If so, when and why?)

The issue has been an area of consistent concern to residents as indicated by Cllr Ward Work.  
The review is a priority for Cllrs across the District.

**Members are requested to provide information on the following:-**

(k) What do you wish to achieve from the review?

To provide recommendations to improve the service for consideration by the Executive and Council to provide residents with a high-quality service.

(l) Are the desired outcomes likely to be achievable?

Outcomes are achievable.

(m) Will it change/increase efficiency and cost effectiveness?

Yes The outcomes will assist in informing and influencing future policy and planning department performance.

**Additional information** – an explanatory sentence or paragraph to be provided below to support each box which has been ticked.

- a Yes it is
- e The majority of complaints are about the planning department
- f It is an area of public concern, lack of communication
- g It is an area of poor performance, consistently missing deadlines

*Additional comments from Cllr Paul Parker*

*Several businesses have contacted me regarding their disappointment with the council's planning department. Two of them are large employers within Teignbridge. One is the largest vehicle disability conversion company in the UK they are also the second largest school minibus conversion company in the UK.*

*Some applications are being dealt with within the timeframe, and we need to look at the inconsistencies. Perhaps using the existing outside contractor to determine all minor applications to enable the council staff to concentrate on the major applications could be an option.*

*An ex-south west regional bank manager that could lend up to 30 million told me that several of his customers would avoid making investment within Teignbridge.*

*I would like the senior planning management these businesses and other applicants to be interviewed to find a solution the problems.*

*Looking at the last weekly planning decisions I noticed that one application has taken three years to issue a refusal, and that isn't an isolated case.*

*I feel that this is as important to discuss at O&S as the rent reduction issue that was raised yesterday.*

A review of planning processes is currently being carried out by an external consultancy company.

The task and finish group may wish to see the Internal Audit Report (2020)

The task and finish group may wish to consider the following :-

1. The number (backlog) of planning applications
2. The cost of employing external consultants to reduce the backlog
3. The estimated time when the backlog will be cleared
4. Time taken to resolve a planning application from registration to completion (decision)
5. Are planning delays/concerns impacting on the accurate pricing/funding of projects. e.g. Capital Projects

***Please return completed form to Democratic Services Department***