

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

20th MAY, 2009

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE
SERVICE PLAN 2009/10 – 2010/11

Report by Director of Planning & Development

Agenda Item	
Report No	

SUMMARY

This short paper introduces the draft Planning and Development Service – Service Plan 2009/10 – 2010/11. Copies of the draft Service Plan will be circulated to members of the Committee prior to the meeting.

Committee is invited to:

- (a) Consider the draft Planning and Development Service - Service Plan 2009/10 – 2010/2011, and;
- (b) Approve the draft Plan subject to any alterations agreed by Committee.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Planning and Development Service has drafted a new Service Plan, which describes the Service strategy for the period to May 2011. It is a source of information for the public, Council Members, Service management and staff. This is the strategic document for the Service, outlining the current position and our main improvement priorities, the impact of these, and how they will be evaluated. It is supported by corporate policies, business and operational plans designed to deliver the Programme for the Highland Council and other key Service objectives.
- 1.2 Progress against the Service Plan will be monitored via quarterly performance reviews conducted with the Chief Executive's Service. Progress will also be regularly reported to the Planning, Environment and Development Committee.
- 1.3 The role of the Service is to generate employment, enhance and protect the environment, and regulate the location, design and safety of development. In doing so, we exercise our various statutory responsibilities. Fuller details of Service functions are contained within Section 1b of the draft Service Plan.
- 1.4 The draft Service Plan sets out the following vision for the Service:
 - to work with people and organisations throughout the Highlands to foster growth and the development of their communities,
 - to promote economic prosperity to consolidate essential services for the benefits of residents, businesses and visitors, and
 - to husband the natural resources and outstanding environmental assets in ways which help sustain the quality of life for future generations.

2. Resource Implications

- 2.1 There are no direct resource implications attached to this covering paper. Resource issues facing the Planning and Development Service are considered, with appropriate actions, within the draft Service Plan and will be subject to review as 1.2 above.

3. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 3.1 The Council has a legal duty to consider for all plans, programmes and strategies, the relevance of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Where environmental impact is likely, a prescribed process for assessing the impact, and taking steps to mitigate against any adverse environmental impact, and consulting with the public and statutory organisations must be followed. The draft Service Plan has been screened in relation to the Council's statutory duty for SEA and a copy of the assessment has been submitted to the Chief Executive for monitoring purposes. The result of the screening is that a full SEA is not required for the Service Plan because it aligns with the Council's Corporate Plan. However Service specific commitments, policy, strategy and plans not directly aligned to the Corporate Plan will be screened to assess whether they should be subject to individual SEA.

4. Equalities

- 4.1 The draft Service Plan has been the subject of initial screening for Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) which has been submitted to the Chief Executive as part of corporate monitoring systems for Equalities legislation. The result of the screening assesses that a full EQIA is not required for the Service Plan. However policy, strategy and plans linked to the delivery of Service Plan commitments will be screened to assess their impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Committee is invited to:

- (a) Consider the draft Planning and Development Service - Service Plan 2009/10 – 2010/2011, and;
- (b) Approve the draft Plan subject to alterations agreed by Committee.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Planning & Development

Date: 12 May 2009

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