



# Walsall Council

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*Development Control  
Committee*

1<sup>st</sup> April 2010

## REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL

### **Development Management**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise members of the new working arrangements in Planning under a new Development Management approach and to seek members agreement to rename the Development Control Committee to 'Planning Committee' in the new Municipal year.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- i) That the Committee notes the report and
- ii) Approves changing the name of the Development Control Committee to 'Planning Committee' as from its first meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

#### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None arising from this report

#### **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Within Council policy. The committee will continue to determine planning applications and enforcement proceedings in accordance with local and national planning policy.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There will be no other changes apart from the name of the Committee and therefore there are no new legal implications arising from the report.

#### **6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS**

None arising from the report. The Development Control and enforcement service is accredited by an Equality Impact Assessment.

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

The impacts of decisions made by the Committee and subsequently by the Planning Inspectorate on the environment are included in reports and subsequent decision letters.

8. **WARD(S) AFFECTED**

All.

9. **CONSULTEES**

Officers in Legal Services and Constitutional Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

10. **CONTACT OFFICER**

David Elsworthy - Extension: 2409

11. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

All published.

David Elsworthy, Head of Planning and Building Control

## Report Detail

12. As part of the services response to embracing a 'development management' approach and to deliver savings as identified in year 1 have now completed a restructure of the development control service. Development Management is a positive and proactive approach to shaping, considering, determining and delivering development proposals. It is led by the local planning authority (LPA), working closely with those proposing developments and other stakeholders. It is undertaken in the spirit of partnership and inclusiveness, and supports the delivery of key priorities and outcomes.
13. The development control service in Walsall prides itself on working on the principals of development management in the way it encourages a positive and proactive approach to encouraging investment in the borough and working with developers and their agents to find solutions to planning issues where possible in the public interest. It has adopted a customer focussed approach which encourages pre application discussions and a "can do" mentality which has served the borough well in helping to get over the message that Walsall is "open for business". Therefore, in order to help cement this approach it is considered that we should now adopt the naming of the service to Development Management rather than Development Control as this best describes what we do in the context of the government's initiative. Failure to do so will leave others from afar perhaps seeing us in a different light. As a consequence it is also considered appropriate to rename this committee to Planning Committee.
14. Members will be aware that as from 1<sup>st</sup> February we also incorporated the previously separate enforcement and householder planning teams into the two area planning teams (east and west) which are managed by the Area Planning Managers, Norman Hickson and Bob Scrivens respectively. The planning policy team has also been moved under my responsibility thereby bringing it into a wider planning (development management) family. It is considered that this will help construct a more joined up approach to the delivery of the planning process as envisaged by the development management approach. It will also better prepare the council in performing its future Local Development Framework tasks in the production of Detailed Development Documents, following the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy later in the year.