

# **PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**

**19 December 2018**

## **PLANNING POLICY, PRACTICE & IMPROVEMENT MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP REMIT**

**Report by Executive Director (Housing & Environment) (Report No.18/421)**

The report outlines the proposed revised name and remit of a refreshed Member/Officer Working Group (MOWG) to provide a forum for discussion around land use planning policy, practice and improvement; particularly but not exclusively in light of the reforms proposed in the Planning (Scotland) Bill to be enacted in 2019.

### **1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 In ensuring the Council discharges its statutory planning duty efficiently and effectively it is important for officers to develop as much knowledge as possible in relation to the successful implementation of planning policy and guidance; and equally for Elected Members to feed back their own experiences of implementation, and to highlight any emerging issues. The Member/Officer Working Group (MOWG) provides a mechanism to share experiences in the fields of planning policy and implementation, with a view to improving the design and delivery of the planning service. This remit will also extend to the work of the Local Review Body in determining planning appeals.
- 1.2 The revised MOWG will update the remit of the Planning Policy & Practice MOWG established in by Council in December 2017 (Report 17/419 refers).

### **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 Like all MOWGs, the Planning Policy, Practice & Improvement MOWG will not have any decision-making authority. It will, however, provide a useful input into discussion and debate around policy making and policy implementation. It will therefore operate as a forum for senior planning officers and Elected Members who can offer feedback from their perspective as members of the Planning & Development Management Committee, the Local Review Body, the Environment & Infrastructure Committee and the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. Elected Members may also wish to provide feedback from their constituents or developers as customers of the planning service with a view to discussing and recommending improvement actions.
- 2.2 The remit of the MOWG will be to:
  - Consider the implication of proposals contained in the Planning (Scotland) Bill particularly, but not exclusively, relating to development management and development planning.

- Consider and provide comment on proposed responses to Scottish Government consultations on changes to planning legislation, guidance and advice.
- Consider and provide comment on issues and opportunities arising from the policies, guidance and programmes contained in the Perth & Kinross Local Development Plan.
- Discuss and advise on any issues and opportunities arising from the interpretation and implementation of policies and guidance by officers under the Scheme of Delegation, and by Members the Planning & Development Management Committee and Local Review Body.
- Consider Councillors' training needs as identified through experience Committees and the LRB, and to review regularly the current training programme.
- Consider and provide comment on the performance of the planning service by receiving and discussing updates on the Planning Performance Framework submitted annually to the Scottish Government.
- Consider feedback from applicants, statutory consultees and the wider public; and discuss and recommend improvement actions where evidence suggests this will deliver a more effective and efficient planning service.

2.3 Other Members and officers may be invited to attend as required to provide a specialist input to particular discussion topics. Meetings will be held quarterly with a minimum of four per year.

2.4 It is recommended that the membership of the MOWG is updated as follows:

- Convener and Vice Convener of the Environment & Infrastructure Committee
- Convener of the Planning & Development Management Committee
- Convener of the Local Review Body
- 4 opposition Members
- Head of Planning & Development
- Head of Legal and Governance Services
- Legal Services Manager
- Service Manager, Planning & Housing Strategy
- Service Manager, Development Management

### **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The report sets out the revised remit and name for a Planning Practice, Policy & Improvement MOWG to help inform and improve the delivery of the planning service across Perth & Kinross.

3.2 The Council is requested to approve the revised remit and name for the Planning Policy, Practice & Improvement Member/Officer Working Group.

3.3 The Council is requested to confirm the revised membership of the MOWG as set out in the report and appoint a fourth opposition member to the Group.

**Author**

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**Approved**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date</b>
Barbara Renton	Executive Director (Housing & Environment)	12 December 2018

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>None</b>
Workforce	<b>None</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>None</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>None</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>None</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>None</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>Yes</b>
Risk	<b>None</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>Yes</b>
External	<b>None</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>None</b>

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The introduction of the Planning Policy, Practice & Improvement MOWG will help deliver the following more effectively:

- (i) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (ii) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

#### Corporate Plan

- 1.2 As above, the introduction of the Planning Policy, Practice & Improvement MOWG will help deliver the following more effectively:

- (i) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (ii) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

### 2. Resource Implications

#### Financial

- 2.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### Workforce

- 2.2 There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no asset management implications arising from this report.

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.2 This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.
- 3.4 This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Act and no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because the Committee are requested to note the contents of the report only and the Committee are not being requested to approve, adopt or agree to an action or to set the framework for future decisions.

### Sustainability

- 3.5 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.
- 3.6 There are no sustainability issues arising directly from the proposals contained in this report.

### Legal and Governance

- 3.6 The Head of Legal Services and the Head of Democratic Services were consulted during the preparation of this report and their comments incorporated.

### Risk

- 3.7 No risks were identified.

## **4. Consultation**

### Internal

- 4.1 The Council Leader, Conveners of the Planning & Development Management and Environment & Infrastructure Committees, the Convener of the Local Review Body and the current members of the MOWG were consulted.

### External

- 4.2 There was no external consultation.

## **5. Communication**

- 5.1 No specific communication plan is required.