

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Planning Committee

Date: 29 January 2020

Report of: Director of Planning and Regeneration

Subject: Review of the Council's Pre-Application Planning Advice Service and Charges

SUMMARY

A report by the Director of Planning and Regeneration concerning proposed changes to the Council's pre-application planning advice service along with increases in the level of charging for providing pre-application planning advice, is due to be considered by the Council's Executive on 3 February 2020.

The Executive report and associated appendices are attached as a background paper to this summary report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning Committee :-

- (i) note the proposals the Director of Planning and Regeneration is making to the Executive in respect of pre-application planning advice and charges; and
- (ii) refer any comments on the proposals for pre-application planning advice and charges to the Executive when it considers this item at its meeting on 3 February 2020.

BACKGROUND

1. Fareham Borough Council introduced pre-application planning charges in April 2009 for providing advice on many types of development.
2. Providing pre-application planning advice is a discretionary service. Local planning authorities may charge for providing discretionary services but where charges are made, they must not exceed the cost of providing the service.
3. The pre-application charges introduced in 2009 represented partial recovery of the costs associated with the Council providing the advice. Small annual increases have been made to the pre-application charges in recent years, but the current charges still do not reflect full cost recovery.
4. Following a review of the pre-application planning advice service, it was found that the service is broadly meeting the requirements of our customers. Some changes are proposed to address specific requests made by customers of the service.
5. It is also recommended that the actual charging structure for the service is changed, and that many of the charges are increased to recover a greater proportion of the actual cost to the Council for providing the service.
6. Some pre-application advice currently provided free of charge, is proposed to remain free of charge at the present time.
7. Details of the proposed changes to the pre-application planning advice service and charges are set out within the Executive report and associated appendices which are attached to this report.

Appendices:

Annex 1: Report of the Director of Planning and Regeneration to the Executive - Review of the Council's Pre-Application Planning Advice Service and Charges

A: Fareham's current pre-application planning advice charges

B: Comparison of pre-application planning advice charges across Hampshire

C: Proposed pre-application planning advice service specification

D: Proposed pre-application planning advice charges

Background Papers:

Report of the Director of Planning and Regeneration to the Executive - Review of the Council's Pre-Application Planning Advice Service and Charges

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Lee Smith (Ext 4427)