

Resource Plan by Portfolio

Planning & Transportation Oct 2015

Current Aims of the Portfolio

- Enabling development which meets local aspirations
- Using planning to protect the environment and maintain local distinctiveness
- Securing appropriate sites for employment and housing in line with the core strategy
- Improving transport and traffic management

Performance

The development control function of dealing with planning applications and giving people advice on development matters has continued to achieve its main timescale and financial targets. There was a marginal increase in applications (1,265 2014/15), and fee income. The move towards charging for services, which were previously provided for free, has continued and the acceptance of this change has become more widespread.

The Transportation team continues to meet its targets for delivering small scale traffic management schemes, making various types of traffic order and deploying traffic speed warning devices.

The senior level management review in the Planning service was completed and implemented in 2014/15. As a result of this significant savings were achieved and the structure of the service was simplified.

Car parking income has continued to rise and changes to the way in which Parking Charge Notices are issued will reduce the number of challenges.

Challenges

Prior to the Spending Review announcement scheduled for 25th November 2015 there remains considerable uncertainty over the scale of funding reductions anticipated. Early indications are that in the period to 2020 the Council will see significant funding reductions. Current estimates indicate that over the 4 years General Fund budget spend will exceed funds available by £3.5 million (19.2%).

Each portfolio holder will be undertaking a review of key areas of budget spend and activity with the emphasis on reducing budget expenditure (see summary of net portfolio spend). The focus will remain on ensuring key frontline services to the community are prioritised.

The local plan review is underway. Our current plans do not reflect the Government's aims in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (NPPF) that there should be a significant increase in house building and economic development. This will be very challenging as the long established policies of development restraint will need to accommodate higher levels of

development much of which will need to be on green field sites. This is likely to be very controversial.

This new Plan will also have to deal with the changes to the planning system which has resulted in many types of development being taken out of planning controls. It will also consider how key decisions could be taken in neighbourhood plans if the local community wants to take more responsibility for the planning of their own areas.

A significant challenge to the service is the viability of the work of the transportation team which is largely dependent on ongoing funding from Hampshire County Council. There is a current threat that this funding will be removed or substantially reduced.

Additionally the ability to recruit and retain a sufficient number of suitably qualified and experienced staff to carry out a range of complex functions is becoming more difficult. This is best illustrated in Building Control where experienced surveyors are being lost to private companies who are in competition for the work.

Corporate Requirements

- Develop plans and options to meet the budget shortfall including identifying service reviews.

Key Activities

- Finalising the planning management review to best able to meet the key challenges set out above.
- Ensuring that the regulatory teams are adequately resourced to deal with increases in workload as the economy, and particularly the development industry, improves. The need to accommodate more development will increase these pressures.
- Responding to the challenges of private sector competition particularly in Building Control
- Responding to current threats to the income streams of various services including Building Control, Land Charges and Transportation.
- Replacement of parking meters with card payment facilities

Supporting Information

In support of this plan the following documents are available:

- 1) [The Delivery Plan of Corporate Aims 2012-2016 for the Portfolio](#)
- 2) [The Portfolio's Performance Scorecard](#)
- 3) [Strategic Risk Register](#)
- 4) [Summary of Net Portfolio Spend](#)