

Strategic overview of the Planning and Building Control Service and the level of integration of those two disciplines.

Building Control and Planning have undergone a number of structural changes in response to business demands over the last 5 years, with regard to challenges faced by the service to ensure both corporate budget and market pressures are considered whilst at the same time customer expectations are met. There is a need and expectation at SMT level for the two services to be joined up and this approach to be embedded across the teams and to reflex this when interacting with our customers.

The vision has been and continues to be a development approach and when possible for Planning and Building Control to work together across the range of applications received. To reinforce this message the Head of Building Control at one point managed the planning house holder team this resulted in better communication between the two teams and continues to. SMT meet on a regular bases and DC and BC issues are discussed to ensure that integration and communication continues, this approach is regularly cascaded down to Team Managers, reinforced at team meetings and discussed at one to ones at all levels across the structure.

The Head of Building Control also chairs the Local agent's forum where DC and BC issues are considered and debated with agents. Moving forward from April 2016 as part of SPI restructure the Head of Development management will be the strategic lead of Building Control, policies and procedure will be review to encourage and monitor interaction between the disciplines, but at the same time be mindful that we work within protocols set down by CIC (Construction Industry Council)

Operational Process.

At an operational level both planning and building control applications go through a validation/registration process. Letters sent to agents and property owners refer to both disciplines.

Building Control also scrutinise the planning register to raise their awareness of projects received by planning as a marketing initiative to drive income and ensure that PCC building control team win the work. Planning officers are encourage and do invite Building Control officer to attend pre apps with agents at the pre planning stage.

Next steps

- Consider the implementation of IDOX and how this may enable more joined up working.
- Consider and scope options to merge the planning and building control administration/technical support teams.

Prepared by Paul May 7/03/2016