

Report of: Chief Executive
To: Standards Committee
Date: 9th March 2007 **Item No:**
Title of Report : Ombudsman Investigation (Planning)

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To inform the Committee of the outcome of an investigation by the Local Government Ombudsman into a complaint about the Council's planning service.

Key decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Councillor David Rundle

Scrutiny Responsibility: N/A

Ward(s) affected: All

Report Approved by: Sarah Fogden, Financial & Asset Management Business Manager and William Reed, Democratic Services Manager

Policy Framework: Corporate Governance

Recommendation(s): The Committee is asked to note and comment on the report.

Introduction

1. The Committee is responsible for monitoring the Council's handling of Ombudsman investigations.
2. On 30th November 2006, the Council received the attached report from the Ombudsman under Section 30(3) of the Local Government Act 1974 on an investigation into a complaint against the Council.

3. As the Ombudsman found the complainant has suffered injustice because of maladministration, the Council is required under Section 31(2) of the 1974 Act to consider the report.

Report Findings and Recommended Remedy

4. The Council agreed with the findings contained in the report and the recommended remedy. The complainant has been paid the sum suggested by the Ombudsman. The Planning Services Business Manager has issued guidance to planning officers requiring them to note how they reach a decision and he has introduced a policy requiring the case officer's report to be posted on the Council's website.

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Background papers: None