

Committee: Planning, Highways & Transport

Date: 6 June 2023

Title: Planning Development Management Guidance for Parish, Town and City Councils

Purpose of Report

For Members to receive updated guidance from Somerset Council.

Recommendation:

Members to note the report.

Background:

1. From 1st April 2023, the previous five district councils of Somerset have now been brought together and have formed Somerset Council. This evolution has led to changes with regards to the planning committee for Somerset Council.

Report:

2. Somerset Council has a Strategic Planning Committee and four area-based Planning Committees which collectively determine planning applications, including waste and minerals, across the Somerset Council local government area:
 - Planning North (covering the former Sedgemoor District Council area)
 - Planning East (covering the former Mendip District Council area),
 - Planning South (covering the former South Somerset District Council area)
 - Planning West (covering the former Somerset West & Taunton District Council area.)
3. Somerset Council have issued guidance to parish, town and city councils to assist Members with understanding the role they play in responding to planning applications (**Appendix 9A**).
4. The document also includes information at **Annex D of Appendix 9A** which describes the planning process of the Somerset Council Planning Committee.
5. Additional information is available at the following links:
www.planningportal.co.uk
<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/>
6. Members have been made aware that training is being organised for the 12 July by SALC. Please contact the office if you wish to participate.

Topics will include:

- An overview of the planning system
- The role of the parish/town council
- How councils should respond to applications
- Material planning considerations
- How councils can best get their voices heard

7. Members are asked to familiarise themselves with the guidance for the town council planning meetings, and to note the report.

Julie Earp
Deputy Town Clerk
May 2023