

TRAINING LOG

All training sessions are held in the Council Chamber unless otherwise stated.

<u>Facilitator</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Rhodri Davies - <i>Development & Building Control Manager, Development Group, BCBC</i>	"Planning enforcement"	15 October 2015	12.45pm

Jonathan Parsons - <i>Group Manager Development, BCBC</i>	"Future of the Planning Service"	26 November 2015	12.45pm
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- This session will look at the current level of service provided by the Development Section, the performance standards set both locally and nationally, the future of the paid preliminary enquiry service and the potential for collaborative working.

- The Development Control Customer Charter was last approved by Committee in 2011 at a time when the staffing structure was larger. There are also similar documents on Enforcement, staff conduct and a plethora of general advice leaflets. The time has come to review these documents and the standards in light of the reduction to the Planning Service and changes introduced by Welsh Government. The aim is to produce a single coherent set of standards and advice notes together with a new Members' handbook to reflect the current climate.
- The paid PE service was introduced in April 2011 and has proven to be very successful. As part of the Wales Planning Act, it will be compulsory for developers to engage in pre-application discussions for major development. Welsh Government also intend to introduce a base line pre-application advice service for all Welsh planning authorities, which will include charging for householder preliminary enquiries. This provides an opportunity for Bridgend to review its service, build on its success and offer a more bespoke procedure that will offer the advice potential developers need as well as being good value.
- Financial constraints forced upon Councils in Wales have had an inevitable impact the services delivered including Planning. The message coming from Welsh Government is as Planning Service is critical for delivering wider benefits to our communities and nationally, that collaboration may provide an answer to dwindling resources and this may include service level agreements, joint procurement processes and even joint development plans. Bridgend may need to investigate the potential for joint working with its neighbours in order to be adequately prepared for the future.

Members may wish to look at the information currently provided to the public available on the planning pages on the Council's website and familiarise themselves with the contents before the next training session. The planning web pages are available at the following link:-

<http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/services/planning.aspx>

There may be a need for further training sessions on these specific areas in due course.

Recommendation:

That the report of the Corporate Director Communities be noted.

MARK SHEPHARD
CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

Background Papers

None.