CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

**Economic and City Development Overview
and Scrutiny Committee**

28 January 2013

Report of the Assistant Director Governance and
ICT

Cover Report for further update of E-Planning Facilities Scrutiny Review Cover

Summary

1. This report presents Members with a further update (Annex A) on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Final Report of the E-Planning Facilities Scrutiny Review.

Background

2. At a meeting of Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20th June 2012 it was agreed to proceed with a review around E-Planning Facilities.

3. A briefing paper prepared by the Head of Development Control set out the fact that the Council, as Local Planning Authority, was obliged to introduce electronic working for dealing with planning proposals. Applicants no longer had to submit paper copies of applications and the Government had a programme of actively encouraging and supporting electronic only submissions. At the time over 40% of applications to City of York Council were received electronically.

4. City of York Council was also looking to cease paper consultation. The Committee was made aware that the Council had been working to minimise printing costs and reduce the time taken to distribute consultations and Parish Councils and Planning Panels were the only external consultees to still receive paper copies.

5. A Task Group appointed to carry out the work on behalf of the Committee presented their Final Report and recommendations to the Committee in November 2012.

6. The Scrutiny recommendations were presented to the Cabinet in December 2012 but the matter was deferred for the consideration by the Cabinet Member at a future Cabinet Member decision session.

7. In July 2013 the Committee was presented with an update on the implementation of the recommendations.

8. Members requested further information as to when Parish Councils would cease to have paper copies of planning applications sent to them. They also requested further details of the charging arrangements in respect of room hire.

9. Members resolved:

    (i)   That a further update on recommendations (iv) and (v) be presented to the Committee.

    (ii) That the remaining recommendations in respect of the E-Planning Scrutiny Review be formally signed off as complete.

    Council Plan

10. E-Planning facilities are, amongst others, used by members of the Public, Parish Councils and Planning Panels. The Building Strong Communities priority in the Council Plan 2011-2015 has a commitment to Community Engagement stating that 'we will introduce new ways for residents to interact with the Council using new technologies and improving communications'.

    Implications

11. There are no known financial, human resources, equalities, legal or other implications associated with the recommendations made in this report.

    Risk Management

12. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy there are no known risks associated with this report.

    Recommendations

13. Members are asked to note the contents of this report and sign off all recommendations that have been fully implemented.

Reason: To raise awareness of those recommendations which are still be fully implemented.

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Report Approved ✓ **Date** 13/12/2013

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all* **All** ✓

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A: Further update information on implementation of E-Planning Facilities Scrutiny Review.