

COUNCIL MEETING – 9 FEBRUARY 2009**Liberal Democrat - Proposed budget amendment 1**Proposal to Devolve Planning Decisions and Advice paid for by reducing the number of issues of Haringey People

We propose dividing the Borough into four “Planning Areas”.

Planning Committee

The existing Planning Committee System has one committee covering the whole Borough and considering approximately 100 major applications a year. The Committee and support costs approximately £18k pa. The new proposal is to establish a Planning Committee for each of the four “Planning Areas” while maintaining a Borough wide committee for key strategic applications with Borough wide impact. Initial costings indicate a revised annual cost of £102k.

Planning Advice

The four “Planning Areas” and their Planning Committees will be supported by weekly planning advice surgeries in each area. These will likely operate from 3-7pm in convenient and central local community facilities such as libraries and other Council facilities. Annual Planning department costs are forecast to increase by £27k with a possible requirement for £8k in one off capital equipment costs. The proposed surgeries would cover all planning applications, including major applications, and provide a 1 to 1 advice service for residents on applications and enforcement.

Revenue Cost increase:

Planning Committee	£ 84k
Planning Advice	<u>£ 27k</u>

Total	£111K
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The above increase in budgeted revenue costs would be offset by a saving from reducing the number of issues of “Haringey People” from ten a year to four a year. The current costs of Haringey People are shown as £372k with £114k of notional income giving a net cost of £258k. The 2009/10 budget includes a proposal to increase advertising revenue by £42k making net costs £216k for the ten issues. Four issues a year would therefore cost £86k which would represent a saving of £130k.

The £19k surplus savings are assumed to be contingency for either additional costs in operating the devolved planning scheme or increases in “Haringey People” costs as a result of any lost economies of scale.

This amendment would make planning advice, enforcement and decision making more accessible to residents while reducing the unnecessary excess of “Haringey People”.