

## **PROPOSAL FOR MONTHLY MEMBER BRIEFING SESSIONS ON PRE-APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

### **Item CB 25/94 referred from Cabinet of 2 September 2025**

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Housing and Planning Scrutiny Committee in respect of establishing regular, officer-chaired briefing sessions for Members on pre-application development proposals.

The aim was to enhance Member engagement whilst maintaining confidentiality and integrity of the planning process.

Due regard was given to the views of the Scrutiny Select Committee, the financial and value for money considerations, the assessment of risk and the legal implications. A new charge would be introduced as part of the pre-application charging schedule as detailed in Annex 1. This was reviewed annually to ensure that costs were recovered effectively.

Cabinet welcomed the introduction of early engagement giving Members an opportunity to raise key planning issues and highlight local sensitivities. It was also recognised that the effectiveness of these sessions relied on Members participating and that low attendance could undermine the value of the service.

On the grounds of improving communication and engagement between Members and developers, Cllr Taylor proposed, Cllr Mehmet seconded and Cabinet

**\*RECOMMENDED:** That

- (1) the proposed approach be endorsed;
- (2) the establishment of monthly member briefing sessions be commended to Council; and
- (3) the introduction of the proposed fees, which would supplement the existing pre-application services (as set out in Annex 1) be endorsed.

**\*Recommended to Council**