

Bursars' Committee – 23 October 2019

Planning Committee – matters for consideration

The Planning Committee's inaugural meeting will take place on 7 November. The main item will be a discussion of the following (with Stephen Kelly, Head of Planning and Economic Development for City and S. Cambs, Andy Neely, and Phil Allmendinger attending):

1. *Strategic items of relevance to the Collegiate University for the forthcoming local plan -* Development strategy (including mix of urban fringe and dispersed sites), improvement of affordable housing provision, any alterations to policy in respect of student housing.
2. *Possible solutions to issues arising from staff shortages in the Planning Department of the Combined Authority -* Bursars will have noted the letter from Mr. Kelly dated 19 August which stated that due to staff shortages pre-apps would no longer be the springboard for an iterative discussion about modifications to submissions but would rather be simply approved or rejected. This letter suggested that if a pre-app was rejected, then the planning process would need to be restarted. While seemingly more directed at smaller residential schemes, there is considerable concern within Colleges both at the current lack of responsiveness from the planning department and at the implication of this letter. We will seek to establish whether there are solutions in which the Collegiate University can play a role which can alleviate the problem in a manner that delivers improved value for the service.

Any Bursars wishing to contribute to these discussions are invited to get in touch with me ahead of 7 November. Recent context on the timeliness/responsiveness of planning applications would be particularly welcome.

Tim Harvey-Samuel , Chair Planning Sub-Committee, October 2019