

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE 20/4/16 REGARDING PLANNING COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

It was RECOMMENDED to the Standards Committee that:

- i) That a clear guide to Planning Committee procedures be produced to inform the public and other participants together with a parallel guide on the planning system to address any misinformation and misconceptions.
- ii) That Legal advice for the Council as decision maker was available to assist Planning Committee with legal input as required on a case by case basis and a legal officer be 'on call' to assist in person during the meetings if requested.
- iii) That who speaks, when, the number of speakers, length of speaking and order remain as existing, with the exception of the limitation of Ward Members to 5 minutes each and alteration to the order of speaking so that the supporter speaks after the objector;
- v) That the questioning of speakers for reasons of clarification be allowed through the Chairman and apply to the applicant and objector only;
- vi) That clear written procedures be put in place regarding voting, that the item description, address and proposition be announced, Members clearly indicate their vote, that the vote was counted out loud and the outcome of the vote be announced.
- vii) That full committee and Planning Working Group site visits continue as existing, but that clearer written procedures for both be put in place.
- viii) That the protocol for making decisions that are not in accordance with officer recommendation be amended to apply to situations only when Members wish to refuse permission against officer advice.
- ix) That a video review of planning decisions be trialled and that an annual review of planning decisions be undertaken via Planning Committee site visit and that the Constitution be amended to remove reference to referral of the findings of the review to Scrutiny Committee.

It was further RESOLVED:

3. That it be recommended to Standards Committee that the Local Government Association's 'Probity in Planning for Councillors and Officers' 2013 be adopted as best practice.
4. That final recommendations 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 relating to venue layout, attendance and advice, agenda format and order, report format and contents and officer presentations be agreed.

4a That final recommendation 6 be amended to read that Planning Case Officer names be included in officer reports (enforcement reports to be excluded) and that where multiple consultation responses are available the most recent and non-superseded are reported.

5. That subject to this service continuing to be offered, the Planning Advisory Service be requested to work with the Council in undertaking a peer review of Planning Committee and a further report be presented to Planning Committee following the receipt of recommendations from the Peer Review. The report to approve an action plan incorporating Planning Committee procedure issues.

Cllr Mrs J Roach had asked that other issues that had not been considered be incorporated into the report. Discussion took place regarding this.

It was RESOLVED that no further detail was required at this stage.