

Appendix 6

Changes to the delegations of the Executive Director Economy, Environment and Culture (Part 6.3)

15. Town and Country Planning

- (1) To determine applications in relation to matters listed under Part I of **Schedule 4** to this Scheme of Delegation having regard to the Council's relevant planning policies and published guidelines.

PROVIDED THAT the powers delegated under the above shall NOT apply where:-

- (a) The specified number of individual written objections relating to material planning considerations pertinent to the application in question have been received within the public consultation period from separate persons or bodies in relation to applications that officers are minded to approve, or where the specified number of individual written expressions of support from separate bodies or persons have been received within the public consultation period in relation to applications that officers are minded to refuse. Only written objections or expressions of support received from persons who live in the immediate vicinity of the application site or who otherwise may reasonably be considered to be potentially directly affected by the proposed development will be taken into account in determining the relevant number of representations required by this paragraph. For the purposes of this sub-paragraph "the specified number" shall be ten or more for applications falling within sub-paragraphs (1) (a) to (d) (inclusive) of Part I ("major applications") and shall be five or more for applications falling within sub-paragraph (1) (e) and paragraphs (2) to (5) (inclusive) of Part I.

PROVIDED THAT in relation to major applications where the application would not otherwise be determined by the Planning Committee as a consequence of the above specified number is ten or more and nine or fewer objections or expressions of support have been received, the application in question shall be referred to Planning Committee for determination should the Chair of Planning and/or any of the Opposition Spokespersons deem it appropriate. The Head of Planning will consult with the Chair of Planning and the Opposition Spokespersons for this purpose;

Changes to Criteria for Planning Committee Site Visits (Part 8.5)

APPENDIX 1

Criteria for Planning Committee Site Visits

1 The Purpose of Site Visits

1.1 The purpose of a Site Visit is:-

- to enable Members of the Committee to obtain a fuller appreciation of the likely impact of proposed development, which may not be apparent from the officers' report and presentation or form a public vantage point outside the site, so as to inform better decision making in respect of that application;
- to enable Members of the Committee to assess the impact of schemes that they have previously approved so as to inform decision making in the future (site visits to implemented schemes).

1.2 The purpose of a Site Visit is not:-

- to allow ward Councillors, applicants, objectors or other members of the public to lobby Members of the Committee, nor
- to duplicate or check up on the site assessment made by the planning case officer.

2. Protocol for calling for Site Visits

2.1 Any Member of the Committee or Councillor is entitled to make a request for a site visit explaining how they consider their request meets the criteria set out above. It will be entirely at the discretion of the Committee to decide whether it wishes to carry out a site visit in that particular instance.

2.2 A request for a site visit may be made by a Member either at Planning Committee, ~~or~~ at an Officer-Member Briefing, or by written request in advance of an Officer-Member Briefing. Officers may suggest or formally recommend that a site visit be made. A site visit will be held if unless the majority of Members, present at the time when the request is considered, ~~disagree~~ agree. Should a site visit be agreed the planning application will be heard at, or deferred until, the next Planning Committee following the site visit.

2.3 Members will be encouraged to identify potential cases for Committee site visits at the earliest possible occasion so as to avoid unnecessary deferments.