

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS – ANNEX A OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURES

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Access to Information – Public Participation procedure was last amended in 2014. Following a Peer review conducted by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) in 2014 and a need to ensure an efficient and focused approach to decision making a revised procedure was presented to the Development Control Committee in September 2016.
- 1.2 The Council’s Constitution Commission also asked the Committee to consider changes to the arrangements for Ward Councillors to speak where the Councillor wished to address the Committee on a planning application from neither a position of support nor objection.
- 1.3 Following consideration of the proposed revised scheme and taking account of comments received at the meeting of the Development Control Committee a public consultation was conducted and further revisions considered.
- 1.4 The proposed Scheme was further amended to take account of representations received and proposed amendments were considered by the Development Control Committee on 6 April 2017 when following further public representation, a detailed examination of the proposals was undertaken and a number of principles agreed.
- 1.5 In response to those decisions the proposed scheme has been further amended to reflect all the principles agreed and is presented to the Committee for endorsement and referral to Council for inclusion as an annex to the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the revised Access to Information – Public Speaking procedure for Development Control Committee and Panel (Annex A) be agreed.

- 2.2 That the revised Access to Information - Public Speaking procedure for the Development Control Committee/Panel be referred to Council procedure be referred to Council for inclusion as an annex to the Access to Information Procedure Rules .

3. Background and Proposed Changes

- 3.1 On 6 April 2017 the Development Control Committee considered a draft amended procedure for public participation following a previous review in September 2016 and a subsequent period of public consultation.
- 3.2 At the meeting on 6 April 2017 further representations were received from members of the public, representatives of Town and Parish Councils and Ward Councillors.
- 3.3 The Committee considered in depth the proposals and comments and agreed a number of amendments to be included in the revised Public Participation – Speaking Arrangements. A final draft of the scheme taking account of all the decisions of the Committee is appended to this report at Annex A.
- 3.4 The decisions and agreed amendments are detailed in minute DCC95 and are reproduced at Annex B to this report.
- 3.5 Annex C sets out the detail of the changes made to the existing procedure which is attached at Annex D.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Committee has considered in detail the proposals and has determined a clear set of agreed principles, these have been incorporated into a revised procedure which is presented to the Committee for endorsement.

5. Annexes

- Annex A. Proposed revised Access to Information – Public Speaking Arrangements
- Annex B. Extract of Minute DCC95 (2016/17) setting out decisions of the Development Control Committee made 6 April 2017.
- Annex C. Original procedure marked up with changes
- Annex D. Original Access to Information – Public Speaking Arrangements