

PROPOSED CHANGES TO SCHEME OF DELEGATION FOR PLANNING DECISIONS

In response to the paper presented at the special meeting of Development Control Committee on 29th September, the Executive Committee of the MK Association of Local Councils and the parish council members of the Parishes Advisory Group would like to make the following proposals and would ask parish and town councils (P&TCs) and other respondents to the Consultation to indicate their support for these proposals to MKC.

- i. Minor planning applications, where the planning officer agrees with an objection or condition request from a P&TC, do not need to go to DCP.
- ii. In cases where the planning officer disagrees, he should discuss with the P&TC which then has the right to escalate to DCP providing it agrees to provide a speaker so the escalation would not be automatic.
- iii. The consultation period for P&TCs should be extended to 28 days as it is for Ward Cllrs and, providing it does not compromise decision timescales, the planning officer should agree requested extensions. This would also apply to major applications.
- iv. The IT system should automatically inform Clerks (and Ward Cllrs) of a new validated application in their Parish on the first day of the consultation period.
- v. The IT system should automatically inform Clerks (and Ward Cllrs) of the date at which DCP will consider an application to which the P&TC has objected or requested conditions as in (ii) above.
- vi. P&TCs should make their objections or request for conditions on the basis of Planning Policies and Planning Guidance.
- vii. A training programme should be developed between MKC Planning and, say, MKALC to provide planning skills to P&TCs and advisory targets for trained councillors could be agreed.
- viii. No change should be made to speaking rights.

Philip Ayles
Chairman, Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils

