

**Amendment to delegated powers in respect of Planning Enforcement matters and arrangements for Ward Members to address the Planning Committee**

**REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

**(Cllr Coles is the Executive Member responsible for these issues)**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Previous changes to delegated powers in respect of planning applications have successfully reduced the length of Planning Committee agendas enabling Members to have more time to concentrate on the most significant proposals. It is now felt that a similar approach should be taken in respect of enforcement matters. In addition it is proposed that a time limit be placed upon Ward Members addressing the Committee.

**1.0 DELEGATION AND PLANNING ENFORCEMENT**

- 1.1 Changes to delegated powers have meant that householder and other minor applications are now generally dealt with at officer level, freeing up more Committee time for Members to concentrate on the most significant and strategic applications. This approach accords with latest government guidance on Development Management and the aim of meeting the target of 90% of applications being determined by officers.
- 1.2 However, there remains a discrepancy with enforcement matters where all enforcement notices have to be authorised by the Planning Committee.
- 1.3 It is therefore proposed that in future delegated powers be extended to include the taking of enforcement action in respect of all unauthorised development within the curtilage of a dwelling.
- 1.4 Whilst this should further reduce the number of comparatively minor issues being referred to Members, if an enforcement notice is not complied with Members would still be responsible for deciding whether prosecution action should be taken or not.

**2.0 WARD MEMBERS SPEAKING AT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- 2.1 Concern has been expressed in terms of the lack of any restriction over the time that Ward Members are allowed to address the Planning Committee. This is in contrast with applicants, agents, Parish Councils

and the general public who are restricted to a maximum of three minutes each.

- 2.2 There clearly needs to be a balance here between the need to ensure that the business of the Planning Committee is carried out in an efficient manner, whilst at the same time allowing adequate time for Ward Members to express concerns that they consider to be of particular importance.
- 2.3 It is therefore proposed that Ward Members are allowed a longer period than others making representations, but that this is restricted to a maximum of five minutes per Ward Member per item in future.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Members are recommended to support the two changes to Planning Committee procedures.
  - 1) Delegation to officers of all enforcement matters relating to householder development other than prosecution in respect of non-compliance with an enforcement notice.
  - 2) Ward Members be restricted to a maximum of five minutes each when addressing the Planning Committee.

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