

Planning Committee – Terms of Reference

1. Membership and Meetings

- 1.1 Fifteen Members (politically balanced) to be appointed by Full Council. Meetings to normally be held at intervals of at least every 3 weeks.
- 1.2 Members of the Executive will not be eligible to sit on the Planning Committee.
- 1.3 The Quorum for the Planning Committee shall be 4 voting members of the Committee.

2. Scope

- 2.1 Neither the Planning Committee nor the Principal Planner has delegated power to:
 - a) approve or adopt Development Plan Documents or the Plans and alterations that comprise the Development Plan; or,
 - b) approve or adopt Local Development Orders;as these are Full Council functions as set out in Article 4 of this Constitution.

- 2.2 The Council has delegated its responsibility for the following functions:
 - a) all functions relating to town and country planning and development control as specified in Section A of Schedule 1 to the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000; and,
 - b) functions relating to the stopping up or diversion of footpaths; the extinguishing of rights of way over land held for planning purposes; the preservation of trees; and complaints about high hedges as specified at items 31, 32, 47 and 47a of Section I Schedule 1 to the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000;to the Planning Committee and the Principal Planner as set out below.

3. Terms of Reference – Planning Committee

3.1 Where a proposal meets any of the following criteria, it shall be reserved to the Planning Committee for determination:

Criterion 1: In the opinion of the Principal Planner or the Chair of the Planning Committee, the application is considered to be of a significant, controversial or sensitive nature.

Criterion 2: The application is from an elected Councillor (or partner thereof) or member of Council staff (or partner thereof) and is recommended for approval.

Criterion 3: The application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIA).

Criterion 4: The application is a significant departure from the Council's statutory Development Plan and is recommended for approval.

Criterion 5: Where there are conflicting views (giving clear planning reasons) from a Town/Parish Council or a Parish Meeting or a Ward Member as well as from not less than 4 individuals.

3.2 Any application which is not referred to Committee by virtue of the criteria listed above, but where conflicting representations have been received (including from statutory consultees), is referred to the Chair or Vice Chair of the Planning Committee before a decision is made. The Chair or Vice Chair may decide to refer any such application to the Planning Committee.

3.3 In addition, the Planning Committee shall authorise all prosecutions for breach of planning control, except in cases of expediency where authority is delegated to the Chair of Planning Committee and the Principal Planning Officer.

4. Delegation to Officers

4.1 The Head of Customer is authorised to undertake all other decisions in relation to the above matters and functions that are not reserved to Full Council or Planning Committee. This includes matters relating to Local Development Orders.

4.2 The Head of Customer is authorised to delegate any of the above functions delegated to her/him in this Constitution to other officers. However, the Head of Customer must keep a register of any such delegations.

5. Delegation to Parish Council

5.1 Where the Council has delegated its powers to determine planning matters to a Parish Council, those matters so delegated shall not be dealt with by the Planning Committee whilst such arrangements remain in place.