

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND PARK DIRECTION**

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**SUBJECT: TO EXTEND THE TEMPORARY CHANGES IN LIGHT OF THE IMPACT OF COVID 19 TO THE AUTHORITY'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

Purpose of Report

In order to enable continuity of the planning service during this Covid -19 period it is proposed to extend the temporary amendments made to the scheme of delegation on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 until 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020. The amendments being:-

- i) Delegation to the Chief Executive/Director of Planning and Park Direction for applications submitted by the Authority or by a Member of the Authority or an employee of the Authority;
- ii) With agreement from the Chair and Vice Chair of the Development Management Committee, delegation to the Chief Executive/Director of Planning and Park Direction for applications with a recommendation contrary to the view of the city/town/community council;
- iii) With agreement from the Chair and Vice Chair of the Development Management Committee, delegation to the Chief Executive/Director of Planning and Park Direction for major applications which had not received any objections from third parties.

Background

a) *Delegation*

The original scheme of delegation is attached at Appendix A  
The minutes of the NPA meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 are attached at Appendix B.

b) *Covid – 19*

Members will be aware that the Authority took the decision to postpone the Development Management Committee meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 as the Authority could not ensure social distancing thus putting Members, staff and the general public at risk. Members will also be aware that the Development Management Committee has now resumed virtually via 'Lifesize'. In order to ensure that future virtual meetings are manageable for both Members and staff it is proposed to extend the temporary scheme of delegation until 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.

The processing of planning applications received from 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 has been severely impacted upon due to the limitations on staff to carry out appropriate

neighbour consultation and site visits, however in recent weeks both neighbour consultations and unaccompanied site visits have restarted. Whilst, so far, there have only been 12 applications determined using the extended delegation powers it is anticipated that a number of applications received since March 2020 will fall within the extended delegation scheme. If the extension to the temporary scheme of delegation is permitted by Members this should ensure manageable numbers of applications on Committee agendas.

#### Policy considerations

None

#### Financial considerations

There is the potential for applicants to request a refund of the application fee if a decision is not made within 16 weeks of validation.

#### Risk considerations

The reputation of the Park Authority is a consideration in the timely management of planning application decisions.

#### Equality considerations

Comments from City/Town/Community Councils will be given proper consideration during the processing of the application and will be addressed in the delegated report.

#### Welsh Language

None

#### Conclusion

This temporary operational change will ensure continuation of the planning service and allow for manageable Committee meetings during this Covid-19 period.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Members resolve to temporarily amend the scheme of delegation with regard to planning until 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.**

#### Background Documents

*Scheme of delegation – Planning*

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*Consultees: Tegryn Jones, Caroline Llewellyn, Janet Evans*