

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION - PLANNING

Purpose of Report

To update the scheme of delegation with regard to planning matters in respect of two issues:

- a) Officers to whom authority is delegated
- b) The consideration of non-material amendments applications

Background

a) *Delegation*

Under the current scheme of delegation for planning, 'delegation' is granted to:

- the Chief Executive (National Park Officer)
- the Director of Park Direction and Planning
- the Head of Development Management

This effectively means that there are 3 officers to 'sign off' decisions etc. With recent changes in personnel, work patterns and job titles the Committee is requested to endorse a change which enables delegation to be granted to the following:

- the Chief Executive (National Park Officer),
- the Director who has responsibility for Planning
- the Team Leader: Development Management (Lead officer on Development Management)
- the Head of Park Direction (Lead officer on Planning Policy)

Having the potential for four officers to 'sign off' documents will enable an efficient flow of work and reduce any potential bottleneck of planning application sign off.

b) *Non-material amendments*

At present the delegation scheme requires that a Committee decision is required should an application be forthcoming for a non-material amendment by certain parties; in other cases this is already delegated to officers for determination. The scheme allows for the discharge of conditions to be delegated as follows (extract from scheme):

- *Any application (except discharge of condition – see above) submitted by a*

Member of the Authority, or a member of his immediate family, or a member who has left the Authority less than twelve months prior to the submission of the application.

- *Any application (except discharge of condition – see above) submitted by, or in which an officer employed by the Authority has an interest.*
- *Any application (except discharge of condition – see above) where the owner of the land is a Member or an officer of the Authority as declared on the ownership certificate accompanying the application.*

It is proposed, for consistency and to acknowledge that the scale of decision on a non-material amendment application is insufficient for Committee intervention, that the wording in the delegation scheme in relation to planning matters is amended to read (addition underlined):

- Any application (except discharge of condition or non- material amendment – see above) submitted by a Member of the Authority, or a member of his/her immediate family, or a member who has left the Authority less than twelve months prior to the submission of the application.
- Any application (except discharge of condition or non-material amendment – see above) submitted by, or in which an officer employed by the Authority has an interest.
- Any application (except discharge of condition or non-material amendment – see above) where the owner of the land is a Member or an officer of the Authority as declared on the ownership certificate accompanying the application.

Policy considerations

None

Financial considerations

None

Risk considerations

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

Equality considerations

None

Conclusion

This operational change will ensure planning decisions and associated work is effected in a timely manner.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Members resolve to amend the scheme of delegation with regard to planning accordingly.

Background Documents

Scheme of delegation – planning section

(For further information, please contact Jane Gibson, Director of Planning on 01646 624800)

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