



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

11 March 2015

Subject Heading:

Revision to the call-in procedure for applications brought before the Regulatory Services Committee

Report Author and contact details:

Andrew Beesley, Committee Administration & (Interim) Member Support Manager
01708 432437;
Andrew.beesley@onesource.co.uk

Policy context:

Council's Constitution

Financial summary:

None arising from this report

SUMMARY

Following a request from members of the Regulatory Services Committee, it is proposed that a revision be made to the call-in procedure for planning applications brought before the Regulatory Services Committee. The proposal is for the call-in of a planning application to be restricted specifically to the Councillors for the ward in which the planning application site is located.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommend to Council that:

1. Committee Procedure Rule 13(a) of the Council's Constitution be revised the read the following:

(e) Only a Councillor representing the ward in which the planning application is located may call-in an application before the Regulatory Services Committee. Any such request for call-in must be received by the Head of Regulatory Services in writing (to include email and facsimile) and setting out detailed reasons for the call in which must be related solely to matters of material

planning concern. Any Member of the planning committee calling in a matter must take care to express themselves in a manner which would not amount to bias or pre-determination should they intend to take part in the meeting.

2. The Council's Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary change to the Council's Constitution, should the proposal be agreed by Council.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Committee Procedure Rule 13(e) of the Council's Constitution sets out the provisions for the call-in of a planning application for consideration by the Regulatory Services Committee which would otherwise be determined by Council Officers in accordance with the delegated scheme of authority. It states:

“Any request for call-in by a Member must be received by the Head of Regulatory Services in writing (to include email and facsimile) and setting out detailed reasons for the call in which must be related solely to matters of material planning concern. Any Member of the planning committee calling in a matter must take care to express themselves in a manner which would not amount to bias or pre-determination should they intend to take part in the meeting.”

2. Members of the Regulatory Services Committee have proposed that a revision be made to the call-in procedure. The proposal is for the call-in of a planning application to be restricted specifically to the Councillors for the ward in which the planning application site is located. This would change the existing arrangement which permits any Member of the Council to call-in a planning application irrespective of whether he/she is the ward Councillor where the planning application site is located.
3. It would continue that for a call-in to be valid it would require detailed reasons which must be related solely to matters of material planning concern. Similarly, any Member of the planning committee calling in a matter must continue to take care to express themselves in a manner which would not amount to bias or pre-determination should they intend to take part in the meeting.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no financial impacts resulting from the proposed revision to the Council's Constitution.

Legal implications and risks:

It is for Council to determine the procedures it shall follow for the calling in of planning applications before the Regulatory Services Committee.

Human Resources Implications and risks:

There will likely be a very minor reduction in the volume of work for staff as the proposal, if agreed, would result in fewer reports making their way onto the Regulatory Service Committee agenda for consideration.

Equalities implications and risks:

There are none arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None