

COUNCIL, 14 SEPTEMBER 2016

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

EXCLUSION OF PRIOR APPROVALS FROM COUNCILLOR CALL-IN PROCESS

At its meeting on 31 August 2016 the Governance Committee considered a report which sought to ratify the way in which prior approval submissions are considered.

Unlike planning applications, prior approval submissions have strict timescales for determination and receipt of decision which, if not adhered to, could result in their default approval irrespective of the Council's intended decisions. Currently, officers decline Councillor call-ins due to the practical difficulties of reporting these applications to Regulatory Services Committee within the prescribed timescales for determination and the cycle of committee meetings.

The matter had initially been presented to the Governance Committee at its meeting on 26 May, but had been deferred for further information. The report considered by the Committee on 31 August contained that information (attached along with the original report) and showed that the majority of London boroughs delegated authority without call-in provision.

With Council's agreement, it was proposed that prior approval applications cannot be called-in to Regulatory Services committee unless an Extension of Time agreement has been sought and agreed by the applicant. Prior approval applications however, will henceforth be included in the weekly publicity list so that ward members can better understand the nature and extent of prior approval applications. After a period of 3 months the matter will be reviewed and reported to Governance Committee to assess whether introduction of a call-in arrangement would be justified. Should further changes be considered appropriate at that point, the matter would be referred to Council for final approval

The Governance Committee accordingly recommends to Council that it:

1. **Ratifies** the proposals set out within the report that prior approval submissions cannot be called-in for determination by the Regulatory Services Committee unless an Extension of Time Agreement has been sought and agreed by the applicant.
2. **Notes** that prior approval applications will now be included on the weekly publicity list of applications and that after a three month period to enable assessment of whether a call-in arrangement is justified a report will be provided to the Governance Committee and any changes to the proposals would return to Council before being applied.

If Council is in agreement with the above recommendations:

3. The Monitoring Officer be authorised to make such amendments to the Constitution as are appropriate to confirm the arrangements in 1 above.