

Introduction to Planning & Regulatory Committee

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SURREY

Purpose of today

- Introduction to the Surrey County Planning System
- How the Planning & Regulatory Committee fits into the planning process and the powers of the Committee
- Introduction to Planning Law

Why do you need to attend this training?

Nolan Committee 1997 recommendation:

“All members of an authority’s planning committee (or equivalent) should receive training in the planning system, either before serving on the committee or as soon as possible after their appointment to the committee”

Functions of the Committee

- Licensing & Registration Functions
- Commons Registration
- Health & Safety
- Births, Deaths & Marriages
- Rights of Way
- Elections
- Development Plans
- Planning & Development Control

Who determines an application?

- Local Government Act 2000 placed the responsibility for certain functions on Full Council
 - ... not to the Cabinet or Scrutiny Committees
- The power to determine planning applications is delegated to the Planning & Regulatory Committee at the Annual Council meeting



Delegated Decisions

- Planning & Regulatory Committee (through Full Council) delegates the ability to determine some applications (Scheme of Delegation)
- Members are informed of applications that are to be considered under delegated powers
- Members can call-in any application for consideration by the Committee

Committee Arrangements

- Committee meets monthly to consider applications
- Currently – 12 Members (+ Substitutes)
- Ex-Officios – Leader & Deputy Leader, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council

“What information do I get to help me make a decision?”

- Agenda and reports published 5 clear working days before the meeting
- Maps and diagrams displayed around the room
- Site visits
- Training on key material considerations

As a Committee Member...

You will be required to:

- Attend relevant training sessions
- Attend site visits
- Attend Committee meetings or identify a trained substitute

Prior to the meeting....

You will be required to:

- Read the agenda thoroughly
- Do not predetermine an application
- Do not indicate to members of the public your opinions on an application for consideration

At the meeting...

You will be required to:

- Read the update sheets before the start of the meeting
- Look at the maps and diagrams displayed
- Be in the room for the duration of a debate before voting

At the meeting...

- Declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or any significant contact with the applicants or objectors
- Ask probing questions
- Treat everyone attending the meeting with respect
- Make decisions on material planning considerations



Remember ...

Planning & Regulatory Committee is an a-political committee, there is **no** place for a Party Whip at this Committee.



Public Speaking

- 5 members of the public for the recommendation
- 5 members of the public against the recommendation
- Applicant/Agent has 3 minutes per speaker against the recommendation

Voting

- A vote is taken on each application – indicated by a show of hands
- Decisions are made on a majority vote of those attending the meeting
- Recorded votes are only taken when requested by members of the Committee



Further Information

- Constitution including:
 - Code of Best Practice in Planning Procedures
 - Member Code of Conduct
 - Scheme of Delegation
 - Articles