

Planning Committee Voting Process – Options for Consideration

1. Background

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Planning Committee of 14th May 2024 the Committee decided to vote on the applications for development permission being considered by the Committee by recorded vote.
- 1.2 At the meeting of Annual Council on 20th May a further debate was held about this issue and the need to ensure that the votes cast at Planning Committee and the result obtained are clear to all.
- 1.3 It was agreed that an options paper would be brought to the next available meeting of the Planning Committee for the Committee to consider and potentially make recommendations to the next available meeting of the Constitutional Review Committee, depending on the option favoured.

2. The Options

- 2.1 Following consideration with the Chair of the Planning Committee and the Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT) three potential options have been identified for the consideration of the Planning Committee this evening. These are:
 - **Option 1** – to continue as voting was administered prior to the 14th May Planning Committee meeting. That Committee members raise their hands to indicate their voting intentions following the proposing and seconding of a proposal concerning an application for development permission. Members of the committee could seek a recorded vote on a particular application, by exception, provided such a motion was proposed, seconded, and supported by at least 5 other members of the Committee in accordance with the provisions laid out in the Council's constitution (***this way of operating has mainly worked well in the past and Planning Committee may consider there is not a need to change it: if Committee do wish to consider a change Options 2 and 3 are presented for Committee's consideration***).
 - **Option 2** – to continue as above with the addition of a Planning Committee Voting Record Sheet, which would be administered by the Democratic Services officer at the meeting. This sheet is appended to this paper as Appendix A for members information. This recording sheet would be an administrative tool to

enable Democratic Services and the Chair of the Committee to improve the recording of votes on applications for development permission. ***(if Planning Committee consider a change is needed, then this option is favoured by officers and the Chair of Planning Committee).***

- ***Option 3*** – for Planning Committee to make a recommendation to the next available Constitutional Review Committee to make an amendment to the Council’s Constitution to enable a recorded vote to be taken concerning every application for development permission considered by the Planning Committee ***(this latter option is not considered necessary or appropriate by officers as the scale of many applications for development permission do not merit such an approach, and such an approach could be seen to be an administrative overburden to the work of the Committee).***

2.2 Planning Committee are asked to consider the three options set out above and decide on their preferred one moving forward. Democratic Services will implement the preferred option of the Committee from the next meeting of the Planning Committee on 16th July 2024.

David Atkinson

Director of Planning

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