

**DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

PROCEDURES FOR HEARING OBJECTIONS AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Provisions in the Council's Constitution (Part 4.8) relating to public speaking:

- 6.1** Where a planning application is reported on the "Planning Applications for Decision" part of the agenda, individuals and organisations which have expressed views on the application will be sent a letter that notifies them that the application will be considered by Committee. The letter will explain the provisions regarding public speaking. The letter will be posted by 1st class post on Wednesday in the week prior to the meeting.
- 6.2** When a planning application is reported to Committee for determination the provision for the applicant/supporters of the application and objectors to address the Committee on any planning issues raised by the application, will be in accordance with the public speaking procedure adopted by the relevant Committee from time to time.
- 6.3** All requests from members of the public to address a Committee in support of, or objection to, a particular application must be made to the Committee Clerk by 4.00pm on Friday prior to the day of the meeting. It is recommended that email or telephone is used for this purpose. This communication must provide the name and contact details of the intended speaker. Requests to address a Committee will not be accepted prior to the publication of the agenda.
- 6.4** Any Committee or non-Committee Member who wishes to address the Committee on an item on the agenda shall give notice of their intention to do so to the Committee Clerk by no later than 4:00pm on the Monday prior to the day of the meeting.
- 6.5** After 4pm on the Friday prior to the day of the meeting the Committee clerk will advise the applicant of the number of objectors wishing to speak.
- 6.6** The order of public speaking shall be as stated in Rule 5.3.
- 6.7** Public speaking shall comprise verbal presentation only. The distribution of additional material or information to members of the Committee is not permitted.
- 6.8** Following the completion of a speaker's address to the Committee, that speaker shall take no further part in the proceedings of the meeting unless directed by the Chair of the Committee.
- 6.9** Following the completion of all the speakers' addresses to the Committee, at the discretion of and through the Chair, Committee members may ask questions of a speaker on points of clarification only.
- 6.10** In the interests of natural justice or in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Chair, the procedures in Rule 5.3 and in this Rule may be varied. The reasons for any such variation shall be recorded in the minutes.
- 6.11** Speakers and other members of the public may leave the meeting after the item in which they are interested has been determined.

Public speaking procedure adopted by this Committee:

- For each planning application up to two objectors can address the Committee for up to three minutes each. The applicant or his/her supporter can address the Committee for an equivalent time to that allocated for objectors (ie 3 or 6 minutes).
- For objectors, the allocation of slots will be on a first come, first served basis.
- For the applicant, the clerk will advise after 4pm on the Friday prior to the meeting whether his/her slot is 3 or 6 minutes long. This slot can be used for supporters or other persons that the applicant wishes to present the application to the Committee.
- Where a planning application has been recommended for approval by officers and the applicant or his/her supporter has requested to speak but there are no objectors or non-committee members registered to speak, the chair will ask the Committee if any member wishes to speak against the recommendation. If no member indicates that they wish to speak against the recommendation, then the applicant or their supporter(s) will not be expected to address the Committee.