

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Head of Planning Services

TO: Civic Affairs Committee

25/6/2014

WARDS: All

TRANSFER OF PLANNING ITEMS FROM AREA TO CENTRAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the request of the Leader of the Council, proposals are being prepared to move the current responsibility of area committees for determining planning applications and agreeing enforcement notice requests to the main Planning Committee. A full report setting out the proposals will be considered by the Environment Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport on 8 July. The Executive Councillor will be asked to make recommendations to the full Council meeting on 24 July, which will decide whether to make changes.
- 1.2 This is being drawn to the attention of members of the Civic Affairs Committee as it relates to constitutional arrangements. If members wish to make any comments at this stage, they will be put before the Environment Scrutiny Committee. Members may also ask to see the report when it is published and may also address the Scrutiny Committee meeting, subject to the consent of the Chair or the Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members note any comments on the principle of this change they have at this stage and these will be reported to Environment Scrutiny Committee on 8th July.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Specific types of planning applications have been determined at Area Committee since 2003¹. In the last two years 173 planning applications were considered by the four Area Committees. This represents around 6% of the total planning applications determined by the council each year.
- 3.2 Proposals are being prepared to move the current responsibility of area committees for determining planning applications and dealing with planning matters such as enforcement notices to the main Planning Committee. A full report setting out the proposals will be considered by the Environment Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport on 8 July.
- 3.3 The agenda for Environment Scrutiny Committee has not been published yet. Members of Civic Affairs are asked to give any in principle comments they may have at this stage and these will be reported to the committee on 8th July.

4. **CONSULTATIONS**

- 4.1 This change raises constitutional issues so Civic Affairs Committee is asked for its views at this stage.

5. **OPTIONS**

- 5.1 Environment Scrutiny Committee will consider options.

6. **CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 Environment Scrutiny Committee will consider any comments made or representations received in person when it meets on 8 July. All comments received will form part of the recommendation to Council on 24 July.

7. **IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Financial Implications**

These will be addressed at Environment Scrutiny Committee

(b) **Staffing Implications** (if not covered in Consultations Section)

These will be addressed at Environment Scrutiny Committee

¹ Limited to mainly minor applications defined by government as small planning applications of up to 9 dwellings or 1,000m² floor space and changes of use

(c) **Equalities and Poverty Implications**

These will be addressed at Environment Scrutiny Committee

(d) **Environmental Implications**

These will be addressed at Environment Scrutiny Committee

(e) **Procurement Implications**

These will be addressed at Environment Scrutiny Committee

(f) **Consultation and communication**

This will be addressed at Environment Scrutiny Committee

(g) **Community Safety Implications**

These will be addressed at Environment Scrutiny Committee

BACKGROUND PAPERS: The following are the background papers that were used in the preparation of this report:

None for Civic Affairs meeting

To inspect these documents contact Patsy Dell on extension 7103

The author and contact officer for queries on the report is Patsy Dell on extension 7103

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