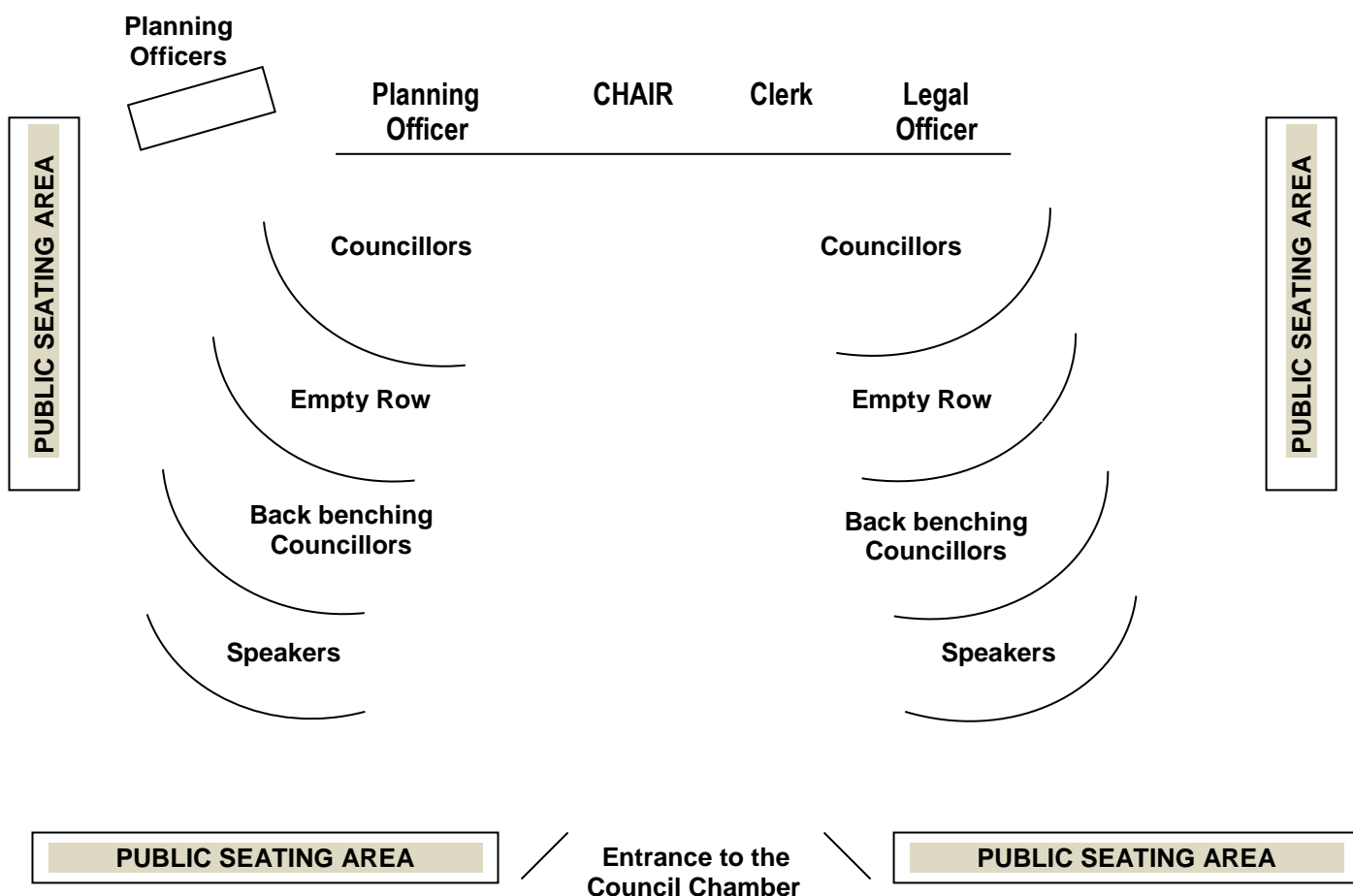


GUIDANCE NOTE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Typical Planning Committee Layout for the Council Chamber



Order of Committee Business

It is the usual practice for the Committee to bring forward to the early part of the meeting, those planning applications where notice has been given that objectors wish to speak, or where members of the public have come to hear the debate. However, often the agendas are quite long and the Committee may want to raise questions with officers and enter into detailed discussion over particular applications. This means that members of the public may have to wait some time before the application they are interested in is discussed. Additionally, the Committee may take a short break around 8.30 pm.

Rights of Objectors & Applicants to Speak at Planning Committees

[Please note that objectors may only speak if they requested to do so by 5.00 pm on the working day before the meeting]

In summary, where a planning application is recommended for grant by the Divisional Director of Planning, a representative of the objectors may address the Committee for up to 3 minutes. Where an objector speaks, the applicant has a right of reply. The Planning Service advises neighbouring residents and applicants of this procedure.

The Planning Committee is a formal quasi-judicial body of the Council with responsibility for determining applications, hence the need to apply rules governing the rights of public to speak. Full details of this procedure are set out in the Council's Constitution, which also provides useful information for Members of the public wishing to present petitions, deputations or ask public questions at Planning Committee, and the rules governing these. The relevant pages of the Constitution can be accessed via this link:

<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/s151078/029%20Part%204B%20Committee%20Procedure%20Rules.pdf>

Addendum

In addition to the agenda, an Addendum is produced on the day before the meeting, with any final updates included in a second Addendum on the day of the meeting. These documents update the Committee on any additional information received since the formal agenda was published and also identifies any applications which have been withdrawn by applicants or which officers are recommending for deferral.

A limited number of hard copy agendas and addendums are available for the public in the Council Chamber from approximately 6.00 pm onwards on the day of the meeting.

Decisions taken by the Planning Committee

The types of decisions commonly taken by the Planning Committee are set out below:

Refuse permission:

Where a proposal does not comply with the Council's (or national) policies or guidance and the proposal is considered unacceptable, the Committee may refuse planning permission. The applicant can appeal to the Secretary of State against such a decision. Where the Committee refuse permission contrary to the officer recommendation, clear reasons will be specified by the Committee at the meeting.

Grant permission as recommended:

Where a proposal complies with the Council's (or national) policies or guidance and the proposal is considered acceptable, the Committee may grant permission. Conditions are normally imposed.

Minded to grant permission contrary to officer's recommendation:

On occasions, the Committee may consider the proposal put before them is acceptable, notwithstanding an officer recommendation of refusal. In this event, the application will be deferred and brought back to a subsequent meeting. Renotification will be carried out to advise that the Committee is minded to grant the application.

Defer for a site visit:

If the Committee decides that it can better consider an application after visiting the site and seeing the likely impact of a proposal for themselves, then the application may be deferred until the next meeting, for an organised Member site visit to take place.

Defer for further information/to seek amendments:

If the Committee considers that it does not have sufficient information to make a decision, or if it wishes to seek amendments to a proposal, the application may be deferred to a subsequent meeting.

Grant permission subject to a legal agreement:

Sometimes requirements need to be attached to a planning permission which cannot be dealt with satisfactorily by conditions. The Committee therefore may grant permission subject to a legal agreement being entered into by the Council and the Applicant/Land owner to ensure these additional requirements are met.

(Important Note: *This is intended to be a general guide to help members of the public understand the Planning Committee procedures. It is not an authoritative statement of the law. Also, the Committee may, on occasion, vary procedures*).