

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

**TO: STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
23rd JUNE 2008**

**FROM: STANDARDS COMMITTEE
5th JUNE 2008**

MINUTE 91 Protocol for Planning Committees

The Committee received a reference from the Strategic Planning Committee held on 16 January 2008 which proposed changes to the Protocol for Members and Reserve Member when dealing with Planning Applications and Lobbying. In considering the changes proposed by the Strategic Planning Committee Members discussed the advice contained within the "Connecting Councillors with Strategic Planning Applications" guidance and its proposal that Ward Members should be included in the proposals for Members to have early opportunity for engagement on strategic applications, expressing opinions both in favour and against such a process. The importance of Ward Members being able to be involved in early engagement was stressed and it was agreed that Strategic Planning Committee should give further thought to how it would seek to engage Ward Councillors successfully on strategic applications.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) in considering its operation of "Early Engagement on Strategic Planning Applications", Standards Committee would wish to ensure that Ward Councillors are afforded the opportunity to be fully informed in order to represent their constituents. The Standards Committee requests Strategic Planning Committee give further consideration as to how it will seek and implement a process for early engagement in respect of Ward Councillors, as suggested within the "Connecting Councillors with Strategic Planning Applications" guidance.
- (2) the Standards Committee does not consider that the processes the Council chooses to introduce to aid the smooth running of its Committee processes are a matter that falls within its purview, and does not believe that such matters should form part of the Planning Protocol. The Committee strongly suggests that the Strategic Planning Committee should give further consideration to the additional proposed "Reasons for Refusal Against Officer Advice" prior to the consideration of any such proposals by Council.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Background documents

Report and minutes of Strategic Planning Committee 16 January 2008

Report and minutes of Standards Committee 5 June 2008

Contact

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