

**REPORT FOR: PLANNING COMMITTEE  
(NON-EXECUTIVE)**

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**Date of Meeting:** 15 June 2011

**Subject:** **Amendments to Council Constitution in relation to information on the rights of Applicants, Objectors and Members to speak at the Planning Committee**

**Responsible Officer:** Hugh Peart – Director of Legal and Governance Services

**Exempt:** No

**Enclosures:** Appendix A – Revised paragraph 30 of the Council's Committee Procedure Rules – Information on the rights of Applicants, Objectors and Members to speak in relation to Applications at the Planning Committee.

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report sets out proposed amendments to paragraph 30 of the Council's Committee Procedure Rules in relation to information on the rights of Applicants, Objectors and Members to speak in relation to Applications at the Planning Committee.

## **Recommendations:**

That the Committee note and comment on the proposed changes to paragraph 30 of the Council's Committee Procedure Rules in relation to information on the rights of Applicants, Objectors and Members to speak in relation to Applications at the Planning Committee as contained in Appendix A.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Background**

Paragraph 30 of the Council's Committee Procedure Rules details rights for applicants and objectors to speak in relation to planning applications submitted to the Planning Committee. It relates to applications which are being recommended for grant or approval by the Chief Planning Officer or applications for prior approval of the siting and appearance of telecommunications development where the Chief Planning Officer is recommending that prior approval be not required or that prior approval be required and granted. The Procedure Rules detail the procedure and the time allowed for representations.

### **Current situation**

The Constitution enables Councillors who are not ordinary members or attending Reserve Members of the Committee to speak at meetings if the Committee agrees that the Member concerned may speak or the Member has been invited to the Committee to speak. There is currently no limit on the number of Members who can speak at the Planning Committee nor the length of time for each speech.

### **Why a change is needed**

The proposal is that the number of Members, who are not Members of the Committee, that could speak with the agreement of the Committee should be limited to three, who could each speak for a maximum of five minutes. This should provide clarity for Members and enable a greater opportunity for objectors to address the meeting.

## Other options considered

The alternative would be to continue with the present system whereby the Constitution does not limit the number of backbenchers who can speak with the agreement of the Committee, nor the amount of time given to each such Member.

## Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

## Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place? No

## Corporate Priorities

Please identify which corporate priority the report incorporates and how:

- United and involved communities: A Council that listens and leads.

## Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Kanta Hirani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 3 June 2011		
Name: Jessica Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 8 June 2011		

## Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

**Contact:** Miriam Wearing, Senior Democratic Services Officer,  
tel: 020 8424 1542

**Background Papers:** Council's Constitution