

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Planning Committee

1 April 2009

AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Democratic Services Manager

Public speaking at Planning Committee

Purpose

1. To review public speaking at meetings of the Planning Committee and the protocol introduced at the meeting in August 2007 (revised May 2008).

Background

2. At its meeting on 24 May 2007, Council resolved that public speaking at Planning Committee be introduced, and that the Planning Committee be authorised to review and amend the scheme at its discretion, Part 4 of the Constitution being amended accordingly.

Considerations

3. Public speaking at Planning Committee meetings, which includes contributions from local Members not on the Committee and members of parish councils, has been well received generally, and has allowed applicants, their agents, and objectors to take a greater part in the planning application process.
4. The proposed protocol, attached to the electronic and paper copies of this report as **Appendix 1**, makes no substantive change from the current one. Its main purpose is to streamline the document, cutting the number of pages in half and largely reflecting the guidance given to would-be public speakers on the Planning Committee webpages of the Council's website.

Options

5. The Committee has the option to approve the proposed protocol, either in whole or in part or as amended, or continue with the existing protocol.

Implications

6.

Financial	None specific
Legal	
Staffing	
Risk Management	
Equal Opportunities	

Consultations

7. Consultations have taken place with the Planning Services Portfolio Holder, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee and the Development Control Manager.

Effect on Corporate Objectives and Service Priorities

8.	Work in partnership to manage growth to benefit everyone in South Cambridgeshire now and in the future
	None specific
	Deliver high quality services that represent best value and are accessible to all our community
	The introduction of, and subsequent agreement of improvements to, the public speaking scheme, enables effective engagement by residents and parish councils with the decision-making process.
	Enhance quality of life and build a sustainable South Cambridgeshire where everyone is proud to live and work
	None specific

Conclusions / Summary

9. To be effective, any system of public speaking must be clearly understood. It must be seen to be fair to everyone, and members of the Planning Committee should adhere to its general principles. A system of customer feedback is in place.

Recommendations

10. It is **recommended** that the Planning Committee adopt the amended public speaking protocol.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: None

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