

Appendix D

Proposed delegation of planning decisions in South Cambridgeshire (Jan 2016)

South Cambridgeshire District Council operates an adopted scheme of delegation which sets out the range of decisions that designated officers can make on behalf of the Council. Decisions on the majority of planning proposals and associated applications are delegated to designated officers without the need for them to be decided by members at Planning Committee

Delegated decisions are carefully considered by the case officer who outlines their recommendations, and reasons behind the recommendations, in a balanced delegated report, which is checked by a designated officer before a decision is agreed and issued.

By operating a scheme of delegation, decisions are made in good time, in line with statutory target dates, and the Planning Committees can concentrate on the most contentious and significant proposals.

Applications will be dealt with under delegated powers unless:

- A Local Member or Parish Council writes, or emails a request for a particular application to be considered by Planning Committee, sound planning reasons are given for why this is considered necessary and the request is accepted by the Chairman of Planning in consultation with designated Officers.

The request by Parish councils should be made within 21 days of the date of registration and by Local Members not later than 28 days of the date of registration of the application, or within 14 days of receipt of any subsequent significant amendment to a current proposal. If the Chairman declines a request, a written explanation will be given to the Parish Council and copied to the Local Member.

- An application is made by an elected Member or an officer of the Council, or a household member of either of such persons, and representations objecting to the application have been received (delegation is still permitted if the application is refused);
- If approved, the application would represent a significant departure from the approved policies of the Council (officer delegation is still permitted if the departure from policy would not conflict substantially with the aims and objectives of the policy or the application is to be refused). For these purposes significant departures are defined as a development which requires referral to the Secretary of State;
- Any 'Major' or 'Minor' application relating to the Council's own land or development where representations have been received against the proposal;
- The application is for the demolition of a listed building or a Building of Local Interest or
- The application is one that in the opinion of officers, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, should be determined by Committee because of special planning policy considerations, the complexity of the application, the application is significant and/or strategic importance to an area beyond both specific site and parish.