

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (Governance)	Development Control Committee	12 January 2010

PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL FOR DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To make Members of the Committee aware of the recently approved constitutional changes to the Public Speaking procedures and protocol for public and ward participation at Development Control Committee.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- To note the protocol for public speaking at Development Control Committee.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	√

BACKGROUND

- The current procedure for is to allow one objector, one supporter and the applicant to each speak for 3 minutes on a planning application. Ward Councillors may also speak for or against planning applications and as they currently have no time limit, it is at the discretion of the Chair to decide how long they should be permitted to speak.

Some applicants for planning permission had expressed concern that the current arrangements lead to a lack of equality amongst supporters and objectors. In addition the Local Government Association has recently published guidance entitled "Probity in Planning" which suggests that in the interests of equity, the time allowed for presentations for and against the development should be identical.

PROTOCOL FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING AT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

5. It was agreed at the Council meeting on 15 December 2009 that the speaking procedure be revised to allow speaking in accordance with a published protocol rather than in accordance with strictly defined constitutional arrangements. The protocol is appended to this report and the Development Control Committee has authority to review this protocol in the light of their experience.

Members attention is drawn to the fact that

- the approved protocol limits Ward Councillors (who are not speaking as Members of the Committee) to speaking for no longer than 5 minutes
- continues to allow the Chair to use his/her discretion to ensure that applicants feel there is equity in the process. In addition.
- Ward Councillors wishing to speak on planning applications should seek approval to do so from the Chair prior to the meeting of the Development Control Committee.
- The order of speakers be revised to the supporter/objector; the ward councillor; the applicant.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

6. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Corporate Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	√	No significant implications in this area	

ANDREW DOCHERTY
CORPORATE DIRECTOR (GOVERNANCE)

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Dianne Scambler	5034	16 December 2009	***