

<b>Subject:</b>	Delegation of Decisions by the Planning Manager	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Development Control Committee	<b>Date:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2012
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Business	<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Operational Services and Development Control
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exception</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Urgency</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Community Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: No
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b>	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1.	<b>RECOMMENDATION(S)</b>
1.1	That the Development Control Committee delegates the decision making relating to the above matters to the Planning Manager in consultation with the Chair and Opposition Group Spokespersons for all applications / matters to be determined / decided for the period 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2012 until the 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2012.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 Under the current scheme of delegation certain matters cannot be decided by the Planning Manager. Owing to the purdah period in the approach to the elections, it is proposed that the Development Control Committee delegates the decision making on such matters to the Planning Manager in consultation with the Chair and Opposition Group Spokespersons, in order to maintain targets for determining planning applications and meet required customer service standards.

## 3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **A clean and green Rossendale** – creating a better environment for all.
  - **A healthy and successful Rossendale** – supporting vibrant communities and a strong economy.
  - **Responsive and value for money local services** – responding to and meeting the different needs of customers and improving the cost effectiveness of services.

## 4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- The Government has set targets for local planning authorities to determine a certain level of planning applications within set timelines. Failure to do this would result in failure to meet both national targets and the Council's own Business Plan target.

## 5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 Under the current scheme of delegation the following matters cannot be decided by the Planning Manager:
- Major applications

- Applications with 3 more objections and which are recommended for approval
- Confirmation of Tree Preservation Orders in cases which have received objections.

Owing to the purdah period in the approach to the elections and in order to maintain the current planning performance on determining minor (8weeks), other (8 weeks) and major applications (13 weeks), it is necessary to request that the development control committee delegates the decision making relating to the above matters to the Planning Manager in consultation with the Chair and Opposition Groups Spokespersons.

- 5.2 It is important that Rossendale maintains its improvement in its figures for the determination of planning applications and this is linked to maintaining our customer care standards.
- 5.3 Members “call in” of decisions would not be affected by the proposed arrangements.

**COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

**6. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

- 6.1 There are no material financial implications.

**7. MONITORING OFFICER**

- 7.1 Comments are included within the body of the report.

**8. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)**

- 8.1 There are no specific human resources implications.

**9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

- 9.1 None carried out.

**10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 That delegation of decisions in determining planning applications is required to meet targets, and is also essential in maintaining our customer care standards.

No Background Papers