

Subject:	Delegation of Decisions to the Planning Manager	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Development Control Committee	Date:	28 th February 2017
Report of:	Director	Portfolio Holder:	Operational Services and Development Control
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	That the Development Control Committee delegates the decision making relating to Development Control Committee matters to the Planning Manager in consultation with the Chair and Opposition Group Spokespersons for all applications / matters to be determined within the period 23 rd March 2017 until 4 th May 2017.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 Under the current scheme of delegation certain matters cannot be decided by the Planning Manager. Owing to there not being a planning committee during April due 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 Spokesperson, 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:

- Planning applications relating to strategic applications which include:-
 - a) the provision of dwelling houses where:-
 - i) 15 or more dwellings are to be provided; or
 - ii) the site area is 0.5 hectare or more; or
 - b) buildings are to be provided with a floor space of 1000 square metres or more; or
 - c) the site to be developed is 1 hectare or more; or
 - d) developments which require an environmental statement.
- Applications or notifications which have received three or more material planning objections and which are recommended by Officers for approval.
- Confirmation of Tree Preservation Orders in cases which have received objections.

Owing to the purdah period and there being no planning committee during April due to the elections and in order to maintain the current planning performance on determining minor (8weeks) 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 Group Spokesperson.

- 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 nor would planning applications on Council owned land or applications made by the Councillors or their spouses or partners or members of staff.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 6.1 Planning decisions have a direct impact on Council’s financial resources.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

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

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

- 8.1 There are no material implications or consultations carried out.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 In order to maintain the Council’s performance targets during the period 23rd March 2017 until 4th May 2017 it is considered expedient to ask the Development Control Committee delegate the decision making on such matters to the Planning Manager in consultation with the Chair and an Opposition Group Spokesperson.