

STRATEGIC PLANNING BOARD

Date of meeting: 6 May 2009
Report of: Philippa Lowe
Development Management
Title: Procedure notes for decision making

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider procedures for adoption as best practice in respect of the Strategic Planning Board and the two Planning Committees as follows:

APPENDIX A

- The reference of matters to the Strategic Planning Board relating to:
 - a significant departure from policy which a Planning Committee is minded to approve
 - any other matters which have strategic implications by reason of their scale, nature or location

APPENDIX B

- The procedure if Members wish to make a decision contrary to an officer recommendation.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 To agree to adopt the procedures as best practice.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 To reduce the risk of appeals, costs applications and legal challenges.

4.0 Legal Implications

- 4.1 To provide a fair and transparent decision-making process in accordance with the Constitution and best practice.

5.0 Risk Assessment

- 5.1 To mitigate against the potential for appeals, costs and legal challenges.

6.0 Background and Options

- 6.1 There were variation in the practices between the four former authorities and the procedure is therefore necessary in order to promote a consistent and transparent approach across the Strategic Planning Board and the Planning Committees.
- 6.2 The Board also need to consider whether they wish this same procedure to be followed for those applications involving a significant departure from policy which a Planning Committee is minded to approve and which are referred to the Board for decision under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.
- 6.3 It is recommended that the procedures be reviewed after 12 months when it is expected that Members and Officers will have had opportunity to assess the implementation of the procedures and consider whether amendments are required.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 7.1 To ensure consistency and transparency across the Strategic Planning Board and the Planning Committees dealing with the determination of planning applications and other matters as part of Cheshire East.

For further information:

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