
REPORT TO:	Annual Council	AGENDA ITEM: 19
DATE OF MEETING:	20th May 2010	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community Services	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Gill Hague X5742 gill.hague@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Change of Committee title from Development Control Committee to Planning Committee	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That Members agree to change the name "Development Control Committee" to "Planning Committee" and to approve any consequential amendments to the Constitution.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To advise Members of the relevance of development management and to seek approval for the renaming of the Development Control Committee to Planning Committee.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Local Planning Authorities must determine planning applications in accordance with the statutory development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Legislation in 2004, that introduced the need to produce a Local Development Framework (replacing the old style Local Plan), has moved development plans away from strictly land use based plans towards plans that provide a strategic vision and objectives for the future of an area over time.

3.2 The traditional 'development control' approach to managing development proposals has focussed on processing planning applications and enforcing contraventions, often taking a reactive and cautious approach. In order to enable local authorities to proactively fulfil their place-shaping role and to actively promote sustainable development local authorities are being encouraged to ensure that the local planning service:

- Facilitates development opportunities
- Influences development proposals to achieve quality outcomes, and
- Solves problems to deliver sustainable development proposals.

3.2 Many local authorities, including South Derbyshire, have already adopted aspects of development management in their planning services. Members here have acknowledged that getting the right decision is of higher value than merely meeting performance targets. Whilst the planning service meets top quartile for determining the 'minor and 'other' categories of planning applications, with regard to 'major' applications the target is set lower to reflect that negotiation and problem solving often means that more time is needed for those applications that often have wider benefits and impacts.

3.3 In March this year, Members agreed as part of the Community Services re-structuring project the deletion of the word 'control' from the job title of the officer responsible for managing the determination of planning applications. Changing the title of the Committee would be consistent with the approach and use of the more generic title Planning Committee would be more meaningful to the general public.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 Updating the name of the committee is consistent with the Corporate Plan theme of Sustainable Growth and Opportunity and will demonstrate that the Committee will be at the forefront of Place Shaping, by taking seriously its role in providing a clear direction for the future development of the district in accordance with current (Local Plan) and future (Local Development Framework) planning policies when determining planning applications.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The decisions taken by the Committee cover planning applications that will help achieve in some way all of the key themes of the Community Strategy but namely a Vibrant Economy, Sustainable Environment, Safer and Healthier Communities by ensuring that the right development takes place at the right time in the right location.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 Development management is not new but use of the term indicates that planning is not just a tick box exercise. The applications that are determined by committee are normally those that are unusual or controversial and Members in consideration of the often conflicting views of stakeholders, residents and the developer strive to ensure that development proposals help make local visions and aspirations materialise.

7.2 A change in title to reflect a positive approach to considering development proposals will retain the established practice of proper consideration and transparent determination of planning applications, and does not mean allowing development that is unacceptable.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 Development management: Proactive Planning from pre-application to delivery – Communities and Local Government December 2009.