
REPORT TO:	Environmental & Development Services	AGENDA ITEM: 10
DATE OF MEETING:	1st June 2006	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	Deputy Chief Executive	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Gill Hague 595742	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Public Speaking at Development Control Committee	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE: DC01

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 Members recommend that a scheme for allowing public speaking at Development Control Committee, as contained in Section 3 of the consultant's report (attached as Appendix A), be introduced for a trial period of six months as soon as the necessary literature, procedures and equipment are in place; and
- 1.2 Five months into the trial period a report be presented to Members regarding the success or otherwise of the scheme in order for Members to determine whether or not the scheme should continue on a permanent basis either as existing or in an amended form.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To inform Members of the study findings regarding public speaking at Development Control Committee and seek support for the introduction of a scheme for a trial period.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The issue of allowing public speaking at Development Control Committee was raised during a workshop undertaken as part of the consultation exercise on the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and has also been raised at Parish Liaison Meetings.
- 3.2 It is important to ensure that in implementing a scheme it is based upon best practice and that it is equitable. ENTEC UK Ltd the consultants who

undertook the SCI work were engaged to undertake research on the matter and recommend a preferred approach that would be suitable for South Derbyshire. The methodology used and the findings are set out in the full study report that has been circulated to all Members.

- 3.3 In order that the scheme is beneficial to those who participate and to add value to the discussion at the Development Control Committee, it is also proposed to introduce the presentation of plans and photographs by means of a power point presentation as part of the officer report.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost of the consultants study has been found from the planning delivery grant.
- 4.2 There will be costs incurred in implementing a scheme such as the installation of audio-visual equipment, printing of guidance and staff time.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 The introduction of a scheme will meet a requirement under the community focus heading in the Local Code of Corporate Governance.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 If introduced successfully the scheme should enrich the community's participation in the determination of planning applications and lead to a better understanding of the decision making process.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The study undertaken is a comprehensive piece of work that underpins the proposed scheme, which is considered to be the most appropriate for South Derbyshire.
- 7.2 During the trial period continuous monitoring will be undertaken including interviews with participants to ensure that if necessary further improvements are made.
- 7.3 It is the intention that this report be forwarded to the Standards Committee for comments and that the consultant gives a presentation to Development Control Committee at its meeting on 27th June prior to consideration of a report to full Council at its meeting on 6th July.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 None other than those referred to in the report.