

PLANNING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE – 15 January 2024

Report by Director for Planning, Environment and Climate Change

Delegations for the discharge of statutory development management and enforcement planning functions

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Introduction

1. This report seeks a decision to approve an updated scheme of delegation to officers on Town and Country Planning matters outside of those decisions taken by the Planning and Regulation Committee.
2. Oxfordshire County Council's constitution at Part 5.1A (1) establishes that the Council will appoint committees and sub-committees to discharge, in accordance with the policy and budget approved by the Council, functions that are not to be, or decided not to be by Council, discharged by the Cabinet. Part 5.1A (1) establishes a table of those committees to which this is effected, with Planning & Regulation Committee formally identified by Part 5.1A (1) (c) to discharge the following functions:
 - (1) The County Council's functions as local planning authority relating to:
 - Development control for minerals and waste planning applications
 - Planning applications by the County Council
 - Enforcement against breaches of planning control
 - And otherwise relating to town & country planning as specified in Section A of Schedule 1 to the Functions Regulations, Paragraph 47 in Section I of that Schedule, and Paragraph 16 of Schedule 2 to the Functions Regulations.
3. Part 5.1 (2) (c) of the County Council's constitution states that the Council in the case of any non-executive function, or a committee or sub-committee in the case of a function allocated in the table, may delegate such functions to an officer of the Council for the discharge of any of its functions. In this regard the constitution also provides the Corporate Director of Environment and Place with such officer delegation to operate town and country planning matters on behalf of the Council. Notwithstanding this, Part 5.1 (2) (c) also enables the Planning & Regulation Committee to delegate its functions to officers.
4. It is considered an appropriate point in time to update the planning scheme of officer delegation now that the Strategic Planning service has completed its restructure.

5. Attached at Annex 1 is the updated officer scheme of delegation which would take effect from the date the Planning & Regulation Committee resolve to adopt it.
6. Members should note that the scheme of delegation does not change any of the triggers where applications are automatically referred to Planning & Regulation Committee for its determination. The updated scheme simply enables the Corporate Director for Environment and Place to sub-delegate to officers within the new structure so they can carry out the day-to-day business as usual planning activities, which relates to smaller scale matters such as determining planning applications that do not need to be considered by the Planning & Regulation Committee, site visits, sending planning contravention notices and other enforcement powers.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the members of Planning and Regulation Committee note and approve the updated scheme of delegation to the Corporate Director of Environment and Place under the provisions within the Oxfordshire County Council constitution for the discharge of Town & Country Planning development management and planning enforcement functions as set out in Annex 1 to this report.

Rachel Wileman
Director of Planning, Environment and Climate Change.

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