

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources to the COUNCIL – 27 JANUARY 2011

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CHANGE TO DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE CYCLE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To request a change to the Development Control Committee meetings timetable from a three weekly to a four weekly cycle.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council approves the change to a four weekly Development Control Committee meeting cycle.

Note: In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

3. Information, Issues and Options

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 A request was made at the Contract Monitoring Board to bring the Development Control Committee meeting cycle in line with the working practice of adjoining and other relevant authorities.
- 3.1.2 South Holland, Great Yarmouth and North Norfolk currently meet on a four weekly cycle. Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority meet once per calendar month. Norfolk County Council has one meeting every five weeks.
- 3.1.3 A change from three to four weekly meetings would reduce the average number of Development Control Committee meetings from approximately 17 to 13 each year.

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 It is considered that there would be no adverse impact on determination times of all types of planning applications.
- 3.2.2 There would be savings for both Breckland Council and Capita Symonds in relation to staff time, Members' expenses and printing and postage costs.
- 3.2.3 The change is likely to increase the length of committee meetings by approximately one third. This is unlikely to result in an over-run into the afternoon.
- 3.2.4 A reduction in the number of Development Control Committee meetings would free up the Committee Suite rooms for other meetings. An amended Calendar of Meetings for 2011/12 is attached at Appendix A.

3.3 Options

- 3.3.1 To approve the recommendation and change to a four weekly cycle.

3.3.2 To retain the existing three weekly cycle.

3.4 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

3.4.1 Four weekly meetings would:

- have no adverse impact on the determination of planning applications;
- provide savings on staff time, Members' allowances and printing and postage costs;
- bring the Development Control Committee cycle in line with that of neighbouring authorities and with its Shared Services partner authority, South Holland.

4. Risk and Financial Implications

4.1 Risk

4.1.1 This report does not require a risk assessment because the issues covered by the recommendations are not significant in terms of risk.

4.2 Financial

4.2.1 None.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 None.

6. Other Implications [*Insert statement or confirm 'none' as appropriate at each sub-paragraph*]

- a) Equalities: None
- b) Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998: None
- c) Section 40, Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006: None
- d) Human Resources: None
- e) Human Rights: None
- f) Other: None

7. Alignment to Council Priorities

7.1 Your Council, Your Services – Constitution: Standing Order No. 1 and Part 3: Delegations to Cabinet: Paragraph 9

8. Ward/Community Affected

8.1 All.

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This is not a Key Decision.

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A – Amended Calendar of Meetings for 2011/2012