

Planning Committee Further Information

What is Planning Committee?

The Planning Committee makes decisions on the more complex and controversial applications and comprises 13 elected members.

What is the Role of Officers?

The officers prepare a written report on all applications. The report assesses all relevant planning considerations for the application and generally will include a recommendation to either permit or refuse.

Who can speak at Planning Committee?

Only elected members of the planning committee and registered speakers are allowed to speak. Any member of the public who disrupts the meeting in any way will not be allowed to remain in the room

Declarations of interest

Members on the committee have to declare any interest that may affect or appear to affect their ability to make an impartial or informed decision.

What happens at the Committee?

Each application will be considered in the following way:

- The Chair will announce each application in turn
- A Planning Officer will present the application and provide updates
- Registered speakers will speak for 5 minutes to outline their views.
- Ward members who are not members of the Planning Committee may address the Committee at the invitation of the Chair
- The order of speakers will be ward members, objector and then applicant/supporter
- The Planning Committee will ask any questions of the Planning Officer and then debate the application
- The Planning Committee will vote on the application once a recommendation is moved and seconded.

How are Planning Applications decided at Planning Committee?

In the debate on a planning application a member may move a motion to:

- Permit or refuse in line with an officer recommendation
- Permit or refuse approval against an officer recommendation
- Defer an application (if they do not feel that they have enough information to make a decision).

If members wish to permit or refuse against an officer recommendation, the members must identify the planning reasons for the permission or refusal.

In most cases, the Chair will take the vote by a show of hands and the decision is based on a simple majority of those voting. If there are equal numbers of votes for and against, the Chair will have a casting vote. The Chair will announce the outcome of the vote before moving onto the next planning application.