

Paragraph 12.02 of Part 4 of the Rules of Procedure contained within the City Council's Constitution provides that a Member of the Council may submit a written question to the Chair of a Committee.

This document informs Members of Council of written questions put to the Chairs of Committees and written replies thereto.

## **Council is recommended to**

- (a) Note the written questions submitted and corresponding responses.**
- (b) Note the supplementary questions and corresponding responses delivered verbally within the 45 minutes available for Questions by Members.**

No.	Question from/to	Question
1.	From Councillor Hilton to the Chair of Planning Committee	<p>It is currently impossible to interrogate planning applications online and to comment on them, due to the cyberattack.</p> <p>What is being done to ensure that planning applications are being dealt with correctly and for members of the public to be able to view the documents and comment on such applications the council receives?</p>
		<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>We are now able to register, validate, consult and determine new applications received in 2022. The processes all take a little longer but we are now back up and running again in terms of providing a planning service for new applications. We are using MS Teams as a replacement for Uniform and a basic web function to display the plans for the public and consultees to view. So the public are now able to view the plans and documents via our website. Public and consultees are able to submit comments on an application via email and the website and consultation letters have been updated to reflect this.</p> <p>The situation is slightly different for application which were received and validated before the incident. As we are still unable to access the system we do not have any information available including applicants/ agents details or any representations on the applications that would have been received.</p> <p>In this instance we are writing to regular planning agents to ascertain details of applications which would have been valid prior to the incident. Where we can get the information from applicants we are then in a position to display the plans on the website and undertake a fresh round of public consultation. Following the additional consultation period we are then able to determine the application.</p>

	<p>February planning committee has been pushed back a week to allow time for the website facility to be operational. This is now working and therefore February planning committee will be going ahead on the 8<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p>Planning and Business Support have worked hard to ensure we have this solution in place so that we can continue to provide an effective planning service.</p>	
2.	From Councillor Hilton to the Chair of Planning Committee	<p>Why are more planning applications that have received objections being determined by officers rather than elected members?</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Planning applications are determined in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation. The Council determine hundreds of planning applications a year and the vast majority of these applications are delegated decisions.</p> <p>All planning decisions have to be made with due regard to the development plan and the Council's planning policies. The planning officer will assess the application against the provisions of the development plan and will take into account any objections received.</p> <p>There are instances where an application for new development is policy compliant but may be subject to some objections. It does not follow that if there are objections that an application will be refused or sent to the planning committee for determination. Following an assessment of the application if the officer considered that the scheme is policy compliant then the Council would be acting unreasonably if they were to refuse the application.</p>