

Supplementary Committee Agenda



Constitution and Members Services Scrutiny Standing Panel Monday, 6th November, 2006

Place: Committee Room 2, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 7.30 pm

Committee Secretary: Zoe Folley, Research and Democratic Services
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6.a Area Plans Sub - Committees - Review of Structure (Pages 3 - 6)

To consider the attached report by Councillor Mrs Grigg

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Recommendation(s):

That Members of the Constitution and Member Services Scrutiny Panel consider the proposal to set up 3 Area Plans Sub Committees as set out on the attached Appendix

Background

The Planning Service has now been achieving the performance targets set by Government in all three categories for the past 6 months. A move to 5 Planning Committees, which has been put forward as a possible suggestion, would prejudice Planning Service's ability to achieve these *Performance Indicators, particularly in regard to the required time-table for dealing with applications.

Performance is a major element in Government determining the amount of funding to individual Local Authorities through the Planning Delivery Grant. In the past this Council's allocation of the Planning Delivery Grant has been used, inter alia, to update the Planning Services Computer System to provide a more efficient, effective service.

Under the present system, Plans C Sub Committee, which has a membership of 8, has at times only just achieved a quorum and has been inquorate when considering individual applications when one or two Members have declared prejudicial interests. In addition, the relatively low number of planning applications for that area has resulted in Members attending meetings to consider as few as one application.

Members of this Scrutiny Panel are, therefore, asked to consider the attached proposal to set up 3 Area Sub Plans Committees. This should ensure that Planning Services continues to achieve the Performance Indicators set by Government and qualify for the maximum possible Planning Delivery Grant. The Grant would then be used to fund further improvements to the Planning Service.

This proposal moves towards making more equitable both the number of Members on each Committee and the workload of planning applications to be considered by each Committee. It also gives a place on a Planning Sub Committee to every Member (should they wish to serve).

*(The Government White Paper announced today has proposed cutting Indicators and controls from 1200 to 200 but at this stage there is no detail as to whether Planning Performance would remain or not).

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Sub Committee A

Loughton + Buckhurst Hill = 19 Councillors

*(approx 121 applications)

Boundary No	13	Alderton	2	Councillors
“	14	Broadway	2	“
“	15	Fairmead	2	“
“	16	Forest	2	“
“	17	Roding	2	“
“	18	St Johns	2	“
“	19	St Marys	2	“
“	2	Buckhurst Hill East	2	“
“	3	Buckhurst Hill West	3	“

Sub Committee B

Chigwell, Theydon Bois, Epping Upland, Waltham Abbey, High Beach, Nazeing, Roydon, = 22 Councillors

*(approx. 137 applications)

Boundary No	4	Chigwell Row	1	Councillor
“	5	Chigwell Village	2	“
“	9	Grange Hill	3	“
“	27	Theydon Bois	2	“
“	1	Epping Upland	1	“
“	28	High Beach	1	“
“	29	Honey Lane	3	“
“	30	North East	2	“
“	31	Paternoster	2	“
“	32	South West	2	“
“	20	Nazeing	2	“
“	25	Roydon	1	“

Sub Committee C

Chipping Ongar, Epping, High Ongar, Lambourne, Matching, Moreton, North Weald, Passingford, Sheering, Shelley = 17 Councillors

*(approx. 136 applications)

Boundary No	6	Chipping Ongar	2	Councillors
“	7	Epping Hemnall	3	“
“	8	Epping Lindsey	3	“
“	11	High Ongar	1	“
“	12	Lambourne	1	“
“	10	Matching	1	“
“	22	Moreton	1	“
“	23	North Weald	2	“
“	24	Passingford	1	“
“	21	Sheering	1	“
“	26	Shelley	1	“

*Based on Applications March 2005 - 2006

Anne Grigg 25/10/2006

