

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee: Council **Date:** Thursday 8 August 2024

Place: Council Chamber - Civic Offices **Time:** 7.00 - 8.45 pm

Members Present: Councillors L Burrows (Chairman), L Mead (Vice-Chairman), R Balcombe, M George, C Amos, I Allgood, N Bedford, R Brookes, R Chahal Holden, B Church, B Cohen, T Cornish, M Dadd, A Ardakani, S Jones, P Keska, J Lea, A Lion, M Markham, T Matthews, C McCann, J McIvor, L Morgan, R Morgan, M Morris, S Murray, M Owen, J Parsons, S Patel, C C Pond, S Rackham, K Rizvi, R Sharif, D Stocker, D Sunger, C Whitbread, H Whitbread, J H Whitehouse, J M Whitehouse, K Williamson and G Wiskin

Members Present (Virtually): Councillors E Gabbett

Apologies: Councillors E Barnard, R Baldwin, R Bassett, T Bromwich, I Hadley, S Heather, H Kauffman, W Kauffman, J Lucas, C Nweke, R Pugsley and S Yerrell

Officers Present: A Small (Strategic Director, Corporate and Section 151 Officer), N Boateng (Service Manager / Solicitor - Legal Services (Shared Services)), G Courtney (Service Manager (Planning Development)), N Richardson (Service Director (Planning Development)), J Gould (Strategic Director and Chief Operating Officer), L Kirman (Democratic Services Officer) and R Moreton (Corporate Communications Officer)

Officers Present (Virtually): M Picking (Democracy & Elections Apprentice)

[A RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR REPEATED VEIING](#)

26. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

The Democratic Services Officer reminded everyone present that the meeting would be broadcast live to the Internet, and that the Council had adopted a protocol for the webcasting of its meetings.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct.

28. REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION WORKING GROUP: PAS REVIEW - RESTRUCTURE OF PLANNING COMMITTEES

The Chairman of the Constitution Working Group, Cllr Lion, presented a report on the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) review, the restructure of Planning Committees and proposed changes to the Constitution.

(a) Amendment 1

Cllr Sue Jones moved and Cllr H Whitbread seconded an amendment to include the following as an additional paragraph to Part 3 – Scheme of Delegation, Appendix 3, CLD2 Development Management

An objection from a Local Council, material to the planning merits of the proposal is received and confirming in writing their intention to attend and speak at the meeting where the proposal will be considered. Should the relevant Local Council fail to register to speak, or attend following registration, the application be referred (without any consideration of the merits of the development proposal) to the Service Director (Planning Services) for determination in accordance with Rule P2 (2) (Planning Applications) set out in Part 4 of the Constitution

The amendment was put to the vote and was carried.

(b) Amendment 2

Cllr Jon Whithouse moved, and Cllr Amos seconded an amendment that:

In recommendation 1(c) delete “nine” and replace with “eleven” so that the whole recommendation reads:

“(c) That the number of members on each Planning Committee be eleven, as laid out within the suggested amendments to Article 10 of the Constitution”

The amendment was put to the vote and was lost.

(c) Amendment 3

Cllr Jon Whithouse moved, and Cllr Amos seconded an amendment that:

Delete recommendation (f)

The amendment was put to the vote and was lost.

(d) Amendment 4

Cllr Jon Whithouse moved, and Cllr Amos seconded an amendment to:

Add at end of recommendation (h) add:

“except that Article 10 (2) should read ‘Newly elected members may be appointed to the Planning Committee at the next ordinary meeting of the full Council, provided they have suitable training and relevant experience.’”

The amendment was put to the vote and was lost.

The recommendations of the report were put to the vote and carried.

Resolved:

That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the following changes to the Constitution, as recommended by the Constitution Working Group and set out in Appendix 1 of the report with the addition of amendment 1 , namely:

- (a) That the number of Planning Committees be reduced to two, titled Planning Committee A and Planning Committee B;
- (b) That the applications before each Committee be determined on the basis of agenda management, the definition of which was the agenda for each Committee to be compiled on the basis of 'complexity, timing and the number of applications';
- (c) That the number of members on each Planning Committee be nine, as laid out within the suggested amendments to Article 10 of the Constitution;
- (d) That the structure of the re-organised Planning Committees be reviewed after a period of nine months after the changes were implemented;
- (e) That all members of the new Planning Committees be required to undertake mandatory Planning Committee training;
- (f) That local Ward Members be afforded the right to speak at Planning Committees, including the opportunity to respond to points of information and points of clarification at the discretion of the Planning Committee Chairman;
- (g) That local Ward Members not be permitted to debate or vote on any planning application within their Ward;
- (h) That the Scheme of Delegation for Planning be amended as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; with the inclusion of the agreed amendment of an additional paragraph in relation to objections from Local Councils, and
- (i) That the application of the Minority Reference process be removed from Planning Committee meetings

29. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Council noted that there were no items of business which necessitated the exclusion of the public and press from the meeting.

CHAIRMAN