

PLANNING COMMITTEE – 06 NOVEMBER 2019

URGENT REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR (STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT) AND DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER

CHANGES TO DELEGATIONS AND AUTHORISATIONS GRANTED BY THIS COMMITTEE

1. On 13 June 2019, the Cabinet approved the implementation of the Reorganisation of the Planning & Development Service.
2. The Head of Planning and Development has recently implemented the first phase of this Reorganisation. As part of this, the previous post of Head of Development Management and Strategic Sites, and both the previous posts of Joint Development Control Manager, ceased to exist.
3. The Officers holding these three posts jointly held a large number of delegations within the Scheme of Delegations to Officers, in the Council's Constitution.
4. In addition, over the years, this Committee has given a very large number of specific delegations and authorisations to these three Officers in respect of particular planning applications, section 106 obligations, negotiations with applicants, approvals of details and other matters arising during its meetings.
5. As part of the approved Reorganisation, appointments have been made to new posts of **Strategic Development and Delivery Manager** (Eileen Paterson) and **Development Management Manager** (Lucy Holloway). Between them, the holders of these two posts are now carrying out all the functions in respect of which delegations and authorisations were held by the previous three post-holders referred to above.
6. The Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer has exercised his authority to amend the Scheme of Delegations to Officers to reflect this Reorganisation. This allows the delegations in the Constitution to be exercised by the new Strategic Development and Delivery Manager and by the new Development Management Manager.
7. In the case of the specific delegations and authorisations given to Officers by this Committee, it is important to ensure that the work of the Council can continue smoothly with clear responsibilities for decision-making and a demonstrable audit trail.
8. I therefore recommend that the Committee resolve that all delegations or authorisations given by it to Officers, at any time, may be exercised by either the Strategic Development and Delivery Manager or the Development Management Manager, as well as (during their absence or inability to act) by the Head of Planning and Development, and endorse any decisions made by Officers on that basis.

RECOMMENDATION:

To resolve that all delegations and authorisations granted by this Committee, at any time, to the Head of Development Management and Strategic Sites and/or to the Joint Development Control Manager(s), be exercised by either the Strategic Development and Delivery Manager or the Development Management Manager, and also by the Head of Planning and Development during the absence or inability to act of the Strategic Development and Delivery Manager and the Development Management Manager, and that decisions made by any Officers on that basis be endorsed and ratified.

Jeremy D.I. Baker
Principal Solicitor (Strategic Development) and Deputy Monitoring Officer
06 November 2019

Contact: Jeremy.baker@ashford.gov.uk; Telephone (01233) 330574

This page is intentionally left blank