

Planning Application Procedure

1. The Chair introduces the Planning Officer who will present the item.
2. The Planning Officer presents the report to the Committee and advises on any relevant additional information received after the completion of the report. The Planning Officer will also refer to the recommendation (it is assumed that Members will have read the report).
3. Registered objectors may speak for up to three minutes.
4. Councillors who are not members of the Planning Committee may address the Committee with the Chair's permission. They are not permitted to take part in the discussions or question objectors, supporters, applicants or applicants' representatives.
5. Registered supporters, applicants or applicants' representatives for the application may speak for up to three minutes.
6. Committee Members may, through the Chair, seek clarification from Council officers or any other speakers on any relevant planning issue that may have arisen.
7. The Committee shall debate the item. Where the application is considered to be straightforward and there are no speakers present, the Committee may make a decision based on the report and without any debate.
8. The Committee will vote on the matter (including any proposed supplementary conditions or recommendations). In the event that the Committee's decision is to refuse or allow an application contrary to the report's recommendation, Committee Members must give valid reasons for the decision based on relevant planning policies.
9. The Chair shall announce the Committee's final decision.

Notes

- The opportunity to ask questions may not be used to make general or specific comments or observations. General comments can be raised at the discussion point of the proceedings.
- Committee Members must be present during the entire debate on an application in order to be allowed to participate in the deliberations and vote on the matter. Any Committee Member who is not present at the beginning of the consideration of an application, or who leaves the room at any stage during the consideration of the application, shall be excluded from participating and voting on the application.
- If a Committee Member needs to leave during consideration of an application and wishes to take part in the deliberations and vote, they should seek the permission of the Chair for a short adjournment.
- Members should avoid expressing a view about an application until after the applicant has spoken to avoid the impression of bias.
- If there is a substantial point which needs to be clarified before a vote can take place, the Committee may agree to defer the application.
- The Chair may ask members of the public and press to leave the room to enable the Committee to consider information which is confidential or exempt (in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).