ARTICLE 7A

THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL BOARD

1. Legal Status

1.1 The Development Control Board is a committee established under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972. As such the political balance requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 apply when determining membership.

2. Role

2.1 To exercise the Council’s development control (local planning) functions.

3. Membership

3.1 17 Members (one per ward) plus the Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

4. Quorum

4.1 Five Members.

5. Chair and Deputy Chair

5.1 The Chair and Deputy Chair are appointed by the Assembly.

6. Frequency of Meetings

6.1 Meetings are scheduled on a four weekly basis.

7. Venue and Time

7.1 The Town Hall, Barking.

7.2 On Monday evenings at 6.00 p.m.

8. Terms of Reference

8.1 See Scheme of Delegation in Part C of the Constitution for details.

9. Appointment and Accountability

9.1 Appointed by and accountable to the Assembly. The Board will report to the Assembly on matters requiring the latter’s approval.

9.2 The Chair (or in his/her absence the Deputy Chair) to be the spokesperson for development control matters.

10. Purpose

10.1 To exercise the Council's development control functions.
11. Speaking by Members of the Public and Other Interested Parties at Meetings

11.1 Members of the public may be permitted to address the Board as an objector to an application subject to notice having been given to Democratic Services by 12.00 noon on the day before the Board meeting. In normal circumstances, a maximum of three members of the public will be allowed to speak at the meeting, each with a target time limit of three minutes. In the event that more than three members of the public wish to speak, subject to the Chair’s discretion, priority will be given to those who made representations during the consultation period for the application.

11.2 Elected representatives acting on behalf of their constituents are also permitted to speak at meetings without having to give prior notice, with a target time limit of three minutes each.

11.3 The Chair has discretion to extend the time limit of speakers or limit the number of speakers to ensure the efficient running of the meeting, in line with the procedures for the meeting.

12. Speaking by the applicant (or their representative) and responsible authorities

12.1 The applicant (or their representative) and responsible authorities (e.g. the Police, Fire Brigade, relevant Council services etc.) will be entitled to address the Board in line with the procedures for the meeting. The Chair has discretion to restrict the time allowed to such speakers to ensure the efficient running of the meeting.

12.2 In normal circumstances, it will not be necessary for the applicant (or their representative) to address the Board unless either (i) the application is recommended for refusal; (ii) objectors have raised additional issues at the meeting to which the applicant (or their representative) wishes to respond to; and/or (iii) the application is recommended for approval but with conditions to which the applicant (or their representative) objects to.

12.3 Copies of the relevant procedures are available on request from Democratic Services.

13. Development Control Board Visiting Group

13.1 At its first meeting each municipal year, the Board appoints a Visiting Group to undertake inspections of buildings and sites as directed by the Board and to make recommendations to the Board arising from these inspections, unless otherwise empowered to act by the Board. The Group consists of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board, together with four other Members of the Board. In addition, the relevant Ward Members will be invited to attend. The Group’s quorum is three.

13.2 Only Members of the Board appointed to the Visiting Group will have voting rights to make recommendations to the Board on an application which is the subject of the visit.

14.1 At its first meeting each municipal year, the Board appoints a panel which meets twice a year in March and September to:

- select a random sample of up to 20 delegated decisions on a range of applications and examine and evaluate between 5 and 10 of them to assess whether relevant planning policies and criteria were applied in each case;
- review planning appeal performance; and
- scrutinise overturned decisions.

The panel consists of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board, together with four other Members of the Board. The panel’s quorum is three.

14.2 The panel will report back its findings to the Board.