



PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 10 June 2021

REPORT TITLE:	APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO STRATEGIC APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to enable the Planning Committee to establish a Strategic Applications Sub Committee, the Terms of Reference of which have been set by Council, with modifications applied by Planning Committee.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- (1) The Terms of Reference of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee, as referred to in paragraph 3.1 of this report, be noted;.
- (2) The size of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee, having regard to the options referred to at paragraph 5.3 of this report be determined;
- (3) The Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Constitution as approved by Council requires the establishment of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee. The membership of the Sub-Committee may comprise between 6 and 9 members. The proposals within this report enable the Committee to decide upon the size of the Sub-Committee and to agree the allocation of seats to different political groups.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 There are various alternative options as to the size of the Sub-Committee as set out within paragraph 5.3 to this report.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Committee is requested to note that the terms of reference of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee as approved by Council and subsequently modified by decision of Planning Committee on 15 October 2020 are as follows:

Strategic Applications Sub-Committee

A Sub-Committee of between six (6) and nine (9) members of the Planning Committee, politically balanced, with responsibility for making decisions regarding:

(i) Large-scale major developments (defined by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as those of 200 houses or more or 10,000 square metres of non-residential floor space) which, by their nature, (e.g. scale, location etc.) have wider strategic implications and raise issues of more than local importance.

(ii) significant applications by Wirral Borough Council to develop any land owned by the Council, or for development of any land by the Council or by the Council jointly with any other person (Regulation 3 applications)

(iii) Applications where it was proposed to make a decision that is a significant departure from the policies of the development plan, with the exception of domestic extensions.

(iv) Decisions that would need to be referred to the Secretary of State with the exception of applications for Planning Permission and/or Listed Building Consent to Grade I listed buildings, where there are no objections on conservation grounds.

(v) informal pre-application discussions with developers in relation to any matter which potentially may come before the Sub-Committee for later decision.

- 3.2 Committee is requested to agree the size of the Sub-Committee having regard to the options with the consequential proportions of seats to the relevant political groups set out at paragraph 5.3 of this report. Under the proposals within this report leaders

of Political Groups will notify the Monitoring Officer of nominations to membership and substitute membership of the Sub-Committee.

- 3.3 At the meeting of Planning Committee of 15 October 2000 Planning Committee resolved to set the size of the Sub-Committee as six members for the remainder of the municipal year 2020/2021.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The establishment of the Strategic Applications Sub Committee is in compliance with the Council's Constitution and the proposed options for membership as set out in the recommendation are politically balanced as required in the Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference.
- 5.2 The Council must comply with the requirements of sections 15 to 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the relevant regulations concerning political balance on committees and sub-committees.
- 5.3 The proportionality arrangements in terms of allocations of seats to political groups for 6 to 9 members are as follows:
- (i) 6 members - 3 Labour Members, 2 Conservative Members and 1 Liberal Democrat member;
 - (ii) 7 members- 3 Labour Members , 2 Conservative Members 1, Liberal Democrat member and 1 Green Member;
 - (iii) 8 members- 4 Labour Members, 3 Conservative Members and 1 Liberal Democrat member; and
 - (iv) 9 members 4 Labour Members, 3 Conservative Members, 1 Liberal Democrat member and 1 Green Member.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no implications.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Failure to establish the Sub-Committee would not accord with the Councils Constitution and would have a detrimental impact on effective decision making and sound governance with regards to planning matters.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 There are no engagement/consultation implications arising from this report.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. There are no equality implications arising from the proposals within this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of Greenhouse Gases.

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APPENDICES

Not applicable

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The constitution

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Meeting	Date
Council meeting – Constitution	29 September 2020
Planning Committee meeting Appointment of Members to Strategic Applications Sub-Committee	15 October 2020