



<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Development Management Committee</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>05 July 2018</b>
<b>Part:</b>	<b>1</b>
If Part II, reason:	

<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Proposed changes to Development Management Committee</b>
Contact:	Andrew Horner, Group Manager for Development Management Katie Mogan, Member Support Officer
Purpose of report:	To approved the revised recommendations following the previous report to the committee on 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2018.
Recommendations	That the committee recommend to Council the following amendments to the Constitution: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To change the time limit of speakers from five minutes to three minutes and allow only one speaker per category.</li> <li>2. If an application is recommended for approval, only objectors can invoke public speaking and then supporters can present their case. Applicants can only invoke speaking rights where the application recommended for refusal.</li> <li>3. Reduce Ward Councillors time limit from 10 minutes to five minutes.</li> <li>4. Stop the questioning of speakers after their allocated time.</li> <li>5. Change the deadline to register to speak from 12 noon on the day of the meeting to 5pm the day before the meeting.</li> <li>6. Stop members of the public distributing material at the meeting.</li> <li>7. Planning officers must keep their presentations to 5 minutes for major applications and 3 minutes for all other applications.</li> </ol>
Corporate objectives:	Delivering an efficient and modern council - The changes will make the committee more efficient and bring into line with other surrounding Council's planning committees.
Implications:	There are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

'Value For Money Implications'	By making the suggested changes proposed, all business on the agenda can be dealt with at the meeting reducing the need for extra meetings which takes up more of officers' and member's time.
Risk Implications	Currently, there is a risk of challenges from members of the public regarding unequal treatment of speakers.
Consultees:	<p>Jim Doyle, Democratic Services Group Manager</p> <p>Mark Brookes, Solicitor to the Council</p> <p>Cassy O'Neil, Corporate Support Team Leader</p> <p>Christopher Gaunt, Legal Governance Team Leader</p> <p>Councillor Andrew Williams, Leader of the Council</p> <p>Councillor Graham Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration</p> <p>Councillor Fiona Guest, Chair of DMC</p> <p>Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe, Vice-Chair of DMC</p>
Background papers:	DMC Report – 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	DMC – Development Management Committee

## Background

- 1.1 Officers presented a report to this committee on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 regarding proposed changes to DMC.
- 1.2 Members decided to send in their comments on each proposed change to officers.
- 1.3 Currently, 10 of the 14 members have responded.
- 1.4 Having incorporated members' comments, the following changes to the committee will be presented to Full Council for approval.

**Change 1: To change the time limit of speakers from five minutes to three minutes and allow only one speaker per category.**

Six of the ten councillors that responded disagreed with this change so this proposal has been dropped and timings will remain as currently stated in the Constitution.

**Change 2: If an application is recommended for approval, only objectors can invoke public speaking and then supporters can present their case. Applicants can only invoke speaking rights where the application recommended for refusal.**

Eight of the ten councillors that responded agreed with this change.

Therefore the following changes proposed are:

- If an application is recommended for approval, public speaking can only happen if an objector registers to speak and then a supporter has the right to reply.
- It is considered that in order to ensure equal treatment applicants should only speak where an application has been recommended for refusal; this would then trigger an opportunity for objectors to speak. It is very rare for an application recommended for refusal with such cases normally being delegated to officers.

**Change 3: Reduce Ward Councillors time limit from 10 minutes to five minutes.**

Seven of the ten councillors that responded agreed with this change.

This change would bring the time limit for councillors in line with the five minutes at Full Council.

**Change 4: Stop the questioning of speakers after their allocated time.**

Six of the ten councillors that responded disagreed with this change.

However, the current Constitution does not allow for questioning of speakers and states that the public participation element is only for the allocated time. The public participation elements of a meeting is not designed to be a question and answer session. Speakers are given their permitted time slot to speak and by members questioning them, they are getting more time to present their case which is not fair to the opposing speakers.

It is proposed that questions from members will be directed to the case officer. The Chair will have discretion to ask the public speaker if the case officer cannot provide clarification.

**Change 5: Change the deadline to register to speak from 12 noon on the day of the meeting to 5pm the day before the meeting.**

Six of the ten councillors that responded agreed with this change.

This change would not affect the running of the meeting but this would allow for a completed list of speakers to be considered at the Chair's briefing on the morning of the meeting.

This would also allow planning officers to reorder the agenda to allow for those applications with speakers to be heard first.

It is proposed that members agree this change.

**Change 6: Stop members of the public distributing material at the meeting.**

Eight of the ten members that responded agreed with the change.

It is not considered fair that members must take on extra information and listen to the speaker at the same time. This has happened at previous meetings and members have decided to defer the application as they have not received all the information. Also, opposing speakers do not get sight of this new information.

It is proposed that if speakers wish to distribute material to members then this must be done before 5pm on the Wednesday before the meeting, in line with the speaker deadline, so this material can be distributed alongside the addendum and can be accessed by all on the website.

**Change 7: Planning officers must keep their presentations to 5 minutes for major applications and 3 minutes for all other applications.**

Eight of the ten councillors that responded agreed with this change.

Officers would be timed similar to public speaking via a digital countdown.