

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council **DATE:** 24th November, 2009

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR CONSIDERATION**

PROPOSAL TO AMEND DELEGATION OF PLANNING FUNCTIONS TO OFFICERS – RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. Purpose of Report

To advise the Council of the recommendations of the Planning Committee on the proposal to amend planning delegations as a result of recently introduced legislation (see item 7, page 47 of the Council agenda).

2. Recommendation

The Council is requested to Resolve:

- (a) That the proposed amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers as set out in the report be approved with immediate effect.
- (b) That the Constitution be amended accordingly.

3. Community Strategy Priorities and Other Implications

As referred to in the report already included within the Council agenda.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 Members have already been circulated in the Council agenda (item 7, page 47) with a report setting out proposed amendments to planning delegations as a result of recently introduced legislation which was to be considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 17th November.
- 4.2 At its meeting on 17th November the Planning Committee was advised that the Member Panel on Constitution at its meeting on 12th November 2009 had discussed the proposed amendment to the scheme of delegation with regard to the extension of time limits.
- 4.3 The Panel had the following three main areas of concern which it agreed should be brought to the attention of the Planning Committee:
 - The delegation did not refer to any time limit on the extension to be agreed. Panel Members were concerned that there should be consistency. It was also

felt that there should be mention of how many times an application could be extended.

- A view that there should be a distinction made between domestic and commercial when considering the extension of time limits on planning permissions.
- That consideration needed to be given to the notification process to neighbouring properties where an extension of permission was approved.

Recommendation of the Planning Committee

4.4 In discussing the proposals in the report and the comments of the Member Panel on the Constitution Committee members made a number of points including:

- A view that there should be a limit on how many times the permission was renewed and that the application should be referred back to Committee once the agreed number of renewals had been exceeded.
- A view that there could be difficulties in renewing the time limits on a commercial application. (Officers advised that in such cases the application would be considered on its merits).
- A view that the proposals to amend the scheme should be approved but that the policy be monitored closely and reviewed if necessary.

4.5 On balance Committee Members supported the recommendations in the report to amend delegations without amendment and the recommendations are set out at paragraph 2 above.

5. Background Papers

Agenda and minutes – Planning Committee – 17.11.09

Agenda and Minutes - Member Panel on Constitution -12.11.09