

Chief Executive Decision

Dealing with Planning Applications: Our Approach to Negotiation

Executive Portfolio Holder Tony Lock, Protecting Core Services
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Purpose of the Report

To confirm the recommendation of members of the District Executive relating to the approval of a document providing a framework around which revisions to planning applications can be made, following a consultative meeting of District Executive on 3 June 2021.

Public Interest

At the meeting of Full Council on Thursday 15 April 2021 it was agreed to make the following changes to the Council's Constitution:

- a) To continue to enable members to hold remote, virtual meetings using available technology;
- b) To amend Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's Constitution to allow those remote meetings to function as consultative bodies and delegate decisions, including Executive and Quasi-Judicial decisions, that would have been taken by those meetings if the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 had continued in force to the Chief Executive (or the relevant Director in the Chief Executive's absence) in consultation with those meetings and those members to whom the decision would otherwise have been delegated under Part 3 of the Constitution;
- c) The delegated authority given under (b) will expire on 31 July 2021 unless continued by a future decision of this Council;

Decision Taken

The Chief Executive, following a consultative meeting of the District Executive on 3 June 2021, made the following decision;

Approved the use of "Dealing with Planning Applications - Our Approach to Negotiation" document as guidance for all involved in the planning process.

Reason

To approve the use of "Dealing with Planning Applications - Our Approach to Negotiation" document as guidance for all involved in the planning process to add clarity to this particular element of the planning process with a view to improving the overall service provided.

Background

To enable the decision making process to continue, it was agreed that Councillors continue to receive decision-making reports. They will form a view which will be communicated to the Chief Executive. The decision will be formally made by the Chief Executive (or relevant Director) during the current coronavirus restrictions.

Financial Implications

There are limited financial implications; as the revision of an application is discretionary the Council is not putting itself at risk of challenge.

Background Papers

<https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=2927&Ver=4>