

COUNCIL

19 MARCH 2023

REFERENCE FROM THE CABINET

A.2 **REQUEST TO CHANGE THE COMMENCEMENT TIME OF MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

(Report prepared by Ian Ford)

The Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 28 September 2023 (Minute 41 refers) had considered, at the request of its Chairman (Councillor Fowler), whether to amend the start time of future meetings of the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee was made aware that it did not have the delegated power and that only Full Council could amend the permanent start time of a Committee's meetings under the Council's Constitution (Council Procedure Rule 35.1 (Ordinary Meetings of Committees)).

Having discussed the matter, the Planning Committee had resolved, by six votes in favour to one against, that -

(a) *the meetings of the Planning Committee due to be held on Tuesday 24 October 2023 commencing at 6.00 p.m. and on Tuesday 21 November 2023 commencing at 6.00 p.m. be cancelled;*

(b) *the Chairman of the Planning Committee be requested to exercise their delegated power under Council Procedure Rule 35.2 (Special Meetings) and to call special meetings of the Planning Committee to be held on the following dates:-*

Tuesday 24 October 2023 commencing at 5.00 p.m.

Tuesday 21 November 2023 commencing at 5.00 p.m.

(c) *Full Council be requested to change the permanent commencement time of meetings of the Planning Committee from 6.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.*

Full Council had duly considered that request at its meeting held on 28 November 2023 (Minute 79 refers). Following debate, Council had resolved that the proposal from the Planning Committee for its scheduled meetings to commence at 5.00 p.m., rather than 6.00 p.m., be referred to the Review of the Constitution Portfolio Holder Working Party for its consideration, and recommendation thereon to Cabinet, and thence back to Council for its final determination.

In accordance with that decision of Full Council this matter had been referred to the Review of the Constitution Portfolio Holder Working Party at its meeting held on 13 December 2023. The Working Party had decided at that time that all Members of the Council be surveyed as to which of the following options for the start time of Planning Committee meetings they supported and be requested to give their reasons as to why they have supported that option:-

- (1) afternoon, following the Committee's site visits;
- (2) 5.00 p.m.;
- (3) 6.00 p.m.

The collated results of that survey were reported to the Working Party at their meeting held on 18 January 2024. Having considered and discussed those results the Working Party decided to recommend to the Cabinet, via the Corporate Finance & Governance Portfolio Holder, that it should endorse the Planning Committee's request.

Cabinet duly considered that recommendation at its meeting held on 16 February 2024 (Minute 91 refers) and decided that it would recommend to Full Council:-

"That, in accordance with the outcome of consultation with Members, the commencement time of meetings of the Planning Committee should be amended to 5.00 p.m. and that if a Ward Member / referrer for a planning application so requests, the Officers, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, should make every effort to list that particular planning application later on in the Planning Committee's agenda."

Therefore it is now:-

RECOMMENDED that the permanent commencement time of meetings of the Planning Committee be changed from 6.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. and that if a Ward Member / referrer for a planning application so requests, the Officers, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, should make every effort to list that particular planning application later on in the Planning Committee's agenda.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS LIST FOR REPORT OF THE CABINET

A.2 REQUEST TO CHANGE THE COMMENCEMENT TIME OF MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Published minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 28 September 2023.

Published minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 November 2023.

Published minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16 February 2024.