

TIME FOR COMMENCEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Report of the Assistant Director - Legal & Democratic Governance

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Area Committee has a long-standing arrangement whereby development applications are not considered until 6.30 pm.
- 1.2 The Area Committee is requested to consider whether this arrangement remains appropriate.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Victoria Area Committee on 6 July 2004, it was agreed to change the start time of the area committee from 6.30 pm to 6.00 pm. This was change from the longstanding practice of its antecedent committee, Heath Bank, which had previously met at 6.30 pm for many years.
- 2.2 At the same time, it agreed that the consideration of development applications should not start earlier than 6.30 pm. It is understood that this arrangement was put in place to ensure that residents wishing to speak or hear the consideration of development applications were not disadvantaged through the introduction of the new start time for the committee.
- 2.3 This arrangement was inherited by the Central Stockport Area Committee when it was established in 2009 and has not been formally reviewed since.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 While the introduction of this provision was a reasonable and logical step in 2004 to ensure that no member of the public arrived at a meeting of the area committee to find that the application they were interested in had already been determined, it is questionable whether there remains any current expectation or anticipation amongst the public at large that applications will be considered at that time. Indeed, the Central Stockport Area Committee is now anomalous amongst other area committees with regard to imposing such strictures within its agendas.
- 3.2 All applicants and objectors are formally notified directly by the planning team if the application they are interested in will be determined by a committee and are advised of the start time of the relevant meeting, and such it is considered that there would be very limited risk associated with bringing the commencement time in line with the other area committees.
- 2.3 As this arrangement has now been in place for 19 years, members are asked to consider whether it remains appropriate.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Area Committee is recommended to give consideration the start time for the consideration of development applications.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Charlotte Douglass on 0161 or by email on charlotte.douglass@stockport.gov.uk