

SUBJECT:	PLANNING COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS – WESTERN GROWTH CORRIDOR
DIRECTORATE:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
REPORT AUTHOR:	CAROLYN WHEATER – CITY SOLICITOR

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek the necessary authority from Council with regards Western Growth Corridor (WGC), for any future planning decisions for the site to be taken by the Planning Committee rather than reverting to Full Council sitting as Planning Committee.

2. Background

- 2.1 Prior to 2006, every planning decision affecting council owned land was taken to Full Council sitting as Planning Committee, rather than to the established Planning Committee itself. In 2006 this decision was amended, and it was agreed at Full Council that all planning decisions went to Planning Committee.
- 2.2 The only exception to this decision was in relation to Western Growth Corridor. The reasoning behind this exception was because it was considered that this site had such strategic importance, and at that time there was the assumption that members may have had a variety of interests or may have predetermined their views on this development, which would preclude members being able to attend Planning Committee and thereby making the committee inquorate.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 It is considered that this decision made in 2006 related to the outline planning application for the whole site i.e. the Sustainable Urban Extension area as outlined in the local plan, rather than any of the many planning related decisions which then would be required as the development progressed through the years.
- 3.2 In relation to the potential for members to be unable to speak due to predetermination views on the development, the Localism Act 2011 clarified the position with regards pre-determination. This now states, that 'just because' a member may have made a position statement with regards a development, or taken a particular view or has campaigned on a matter, this did not automatically mean they were precluded in taking part in the decision.
- 3.3 Outline planning permission (with full permission for access) was granted by Full Council sitting as Planning Committee in January 2022 and a reserved matters application (for 52 houses and the haul route/substation) went before Full Council in January of this year.

- 3.4 As the development/build of this site progresses through the agreed programme there may be required variations, amendments to conditions and other applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 which would require an application to be submitted to the Council as Local Planning Authority many of which, however minor, may require them to be heard by Planning Committee.
- 3.5 It is now considered that Planning Committee, is the appropriate committee for such matters, as it is for other council owned developments/applications. All necessary planning applications would still go before Planning Committee as per the Council's constitution. The public would still have opportunity to comment and register to speak at the committee, and members would be able to attend and speak as Ward Councillors. Planning Committee is required by law to be politically proportionate.

4. Strategic Priorities

4.1 Let's drive inclusive economic growth

No implications from this report.

4.2 Let's reduce all kinds of inequality

No implications from this report.

4.3 Let's deliver quality housing

No implications from this report.

4.4 Let's enhance our remarkable place

No implications from this report.

4.5 Let's address the challenge of climate change

No implications from this report.

5. Organisational Impacts

5.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 That moving forward all planning applications for the Western Growth Corridor would be taken to Planning Committee as per the constitutional arrangements for planning decisions.

Is this a key decision?

No

Do the exempt information categories apply?

No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?

No

How many appendices does the report contain?

None

List of Background Papers:

None

Lead Officer:

Name: Carolyn Wheater

Post: City Solicitor

Carolyn.wheater@lincoln.gov.uk