

3 DEVELOPMENT QUALITY COMMITTEE - DEPUTATIONS (AN273-2006)

Standing Order 28(1) provides that all requests for deputations shall be made at least five clear working days prior to the date of the meeting at which the subject may be considered. Later requests are to be reported to Committee and it was intended that the Committee would consider the reason why the five day notice had not been complied with and if good reason was shown then to allow the late deputation to be heard.

In practice, what happens is that many requests for deputations are heard at the last minute and the Committee automatically agrees to hear them with no reason being given as to why the five day notice was not complied with.

This means that the applicants may not be in attendance having had no notice that there were to be deputations and accordingly may consider themselves prejudiced by the Committee decision to hear these deputations.

Of greater importance however are those decisions by the Committee to hear deputations, whether timeously requested or not, in cases where no objections have been lodged in accordance with the regulated procedure. In hearing these deputations the Committee effectively allows objections by the 'back door'. Applicants are thereby denied the right to properly address these 'objections' and should the Committee then refuse the applications they could be found to have acted unreasonably and liable for all expenses.

In conclusion the Committee is asked to agree not to hear any request for a deputation unless it both relates to an objection competently and timeously lodged by the deputation and has been timeously made five clear days before the meeting and that the Policy and Resources Committee be asked to amend Standing Order 28(1) to read:-

"All applications requesting the Council to receive a deputation shall be in writing, duly signed, addressed and, where possible, delivered to the Chief Executive at least five clear working days prior to the date of the meeting at which the subject may be considered. Any later requests for deputations to be received shall be reported to the meeting and shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the remainder of this Standing Order, **except in the case of the Development Quality Committee where no later requests for deputations will be considered or reported.**"

This policy would be clearly outlined to objectors and applicants, both through the Guidance Notes produced by the Planning and Transportation Department which is available both in electronic form and in hard copy and through direct correspondence. Copies of these have been placed in the Members' Lounge and with Group Secretaries.