

Emergency arrangements resulting from the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic: **Planning Committee**

On 22nd April 2020 Cabinet, in consultation with opposition leaders, agreed to adopt temporary emergency measures for executive and certain non-executive decisions to be delegated to officers using emergency powers that were invoked due to the Chief Executive declaring a major incident in Wyre.

5.2.1 of the report agreed the measures below for the Planning Committee:

“That authority to determine any planning application, listed building consent and tree preservation order application that would otherwise have been decided at a meeting of the Committee be delegated to the Chief Executive (with the Head of Planning Services providing an advisory role) in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee when both are available, and either if only one is available. Where relevant, Ward Councillors will also be encouraged to submit comments prior to planning applications being determined.”

Planning Committee meetings include previously undertaken site visits and it has always been recognised that such visits are an important part of members gaining a full understanding of the site and the relevant planning issues. The Head of Planning Services will arrange for photographs and a video of the sites to be made available, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman would be invited to separately visit the sites using the relevant maps provided, which would show appropriate vantage points.”

What this means in practical terms:

The planning committee process will remain mostly unchanged and decisions will be taken on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 2pm, unless there are no applications to consider.

The Democratic Services Officer will set up a private remote meeting for the Chief Executive, Head of Planning Services, Planning Development Manager, a Legal Team representative, Democratic Services Officer and the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee. The decisions will be taken by the Chief Executive and this meeting will be minuted and published like a ‘normal’ planning committee meeting to the [Emergency Arrangements Non- Executive Decisions page](#).

Parish Councillors, County Councillors, Applicants, Agents and Members of the Public who would normally wish to speak at a planning committee meeting should contact the Democratic Services Officer (emma.keany@wyre.gov.uk) by 14:00 the day before the decision-making meeting, as is the usual practice for members of the public. Individuals who have registered, should ensure that their comments are made by

13:00 on the day of the decision-making meeting and should be sent to the Democratic Services Officer.

The Chairman and/or Vice Chairman will have the chance, where necessary and subject to consultation with Legal Services, to visit the sites in question to ensure that they gain a full understanding of the site. Such visits will be guided by information/plans provided by the Planning Development Manager.

The rules on how applications are determined by the Planning Committee remains unchanged.

If you have any questions on the process for how items will be decided by the committee please email Emma (emma.keany@wyre.gov.uk). If your query is relevant to a specific planning application please follow the normal procedure and contact Planning Services.

Emma Keany
Democratic Services Officer
28 April 2020