

Agenda Item 11d

AGENDA ITEM 11(d) - Planning

Amendment

Delete first sentence of the third paragraph and replace with:

“Council notes that the reduction in spending on planning services as a result of the austerity programme of the Coalition and Conservative governments has had an impact on the ability of the planning service to carry out its vital function. This led to local decisions in Portsmouth to reduce the number of planning officers and to the loss of experienced planning officers.

Council regrets the need to bring in outside support to try to reduce the backlog at a time when the council budget is under significant pressure.”

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Judith Smyth

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Graham Heaney

The Motion to therefore read:

Council notes the extensive backlog of unregistered planning applications that has built up. It notes that seemingly routine applications are now taking many months just to validate and longer still to determine.

Council considers that being able to make planning decisions in a consistent and timely manner is critical if it is to achieve its ambitions for the regeneration of the city and for it to become a hub for businesses in emerging sectors. It notes the low number of major applications that have been received or determined over the last year and is concerned that a combination of these delays and high CIL payments is making Portsmouth an unpredictable, expensive and slow place to do business.

Council notes that the reduction in spending on planning services as a result of the austerity programme of the Coalition and Conservative governments has had an impact on the ability of the planning service to carry out its vital function. This led to local decisions in Portsmouth to reduce the number of planning officers and to the loss of experienced planning officers.

Council regrets the need to bring in outside support to try to reduce the backlog at a time when the council budget is under significant pressure. It remains concerned that this may not be sufficient. It therefore resolves to ask the Cabinet Member with responsibility for planning to ensure:

- That the Planning Department adopt a guaranteed minimum standard for the validation of applications, including a maximum time period for those applications where the submitted documentation is complete (from the date of receipt)
- That the Cabinet member work with the Planning Department to ensure greater transparency for both Councillors and the public and bring a report to the next Full Council meeting to update the council on the new standards and backlogs.

