



## ***Planning Committee report: Public Involvement in the Planning Process***

Date Written	25 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2022
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Service Area	Planning
Committee Division	Portfolio
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	April 2022

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

### **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

1.1 A Notice of Motion in relation to developing public involvement in the Planning Process and the introduction of public speaking was approved by Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021. The motion requested that a report be presented to the Planning, Regulatory and Licencing Committee outlining the Pro's and Con's along with a suggested protocol.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that**

- 2.1 the content of the report be debated
- 2.2 the findings of the committee be reported back to the Constitution working group and subsequently to Full Council for approval.

### **3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 A Notice of Motion was accepted by Council on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021. The Motion required that a report be brought to the Planning, Regulatory and Licensing Committee for the purpose of developing public involvement in the Planning Process with the intention being the introduction of the opportunity for the public to speak at Committee.
- 3.2 This report outlines the 'pros and cons' of changing the current format of public engagement at the committee, along with a suggested protocol on the number of

speakers, the length of time they can speak for and provision of a right to reply for the applicant.

## **4.0 PRO'S AND CONS AND SUGGESTED PROTOCOL**

4.1 The following Pro's and Con's have been identified:-

### Pro's

- Improves the opportunity for the public to engage with the Planning process following the publication of the agenda.
- Consistent with other LA's.
- Meet's the Welsh Governments aspirations for public engagement at Planning Committee

### Con's

- Resources required to organise and facilitate
- Cost of translator
- Speakers will only replicate written objections which has no benefit to the decision making process

4.2 The Protocol at Appendix 1 sets out the suggested procedure and rules necessary if Committee are minded to implement the opportunity for applicant's and objector's to speak at Committee. It addresses who can speak, when speaking will be permitted, registering a request to speak, the content of the speech as well as other procedural matters such as length of time and number of speakers.

4.3 Committee members are reminded that the purpose of Planning committee is to determine major and strategically significant Planning applications; Minor and Householder Planning applications should be determined by the Director of Planning & Neighbourhood Services under her Delegated powers, and in this respect requests to speak on Minor and Householder applications will not be accepted.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

5.1 The proposal will require that a translator be available in the event that a speaker wishes to address the committee in any language other than English.