

Time started: 17.00pm
Time ended: 17.06pm

**Regeneration, Decarbonisation, Strategic Planning
and Transport
Cabinet Member Meeting
19 December 2022**

Present: Councillor Hassell

In Attendance: Paul Clarke, Head of Planning

01/22 Apologies

There were no apologies.

02/22 Late Items

There were no late items.

03/22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

05/22 Changes to Fees for Pre-application Advice

The Cabinet Member considered a report regarding changes to the Fees for Pre-application Advice. Councils can charge for providing discretionary services like pre-application advice, but the charges should be on a cost recovery only basis, they are not for profit.

Charges were introduced to improve the delivery of the service, screen out speculative and poorly thought-out developments, and budgetary pressures. As there are significant resources involved in dealing with requests for pre-application advice it was agreed to recover some of the cost for providing the service.

It was reported that the current pre-application charges were adopted in April 2009 and were last reviewed and updated in 2016. The proposed updated charges are at Appendix 1 of the report. The officer highlighted the addition of "Category 1" which related to advice not covered by any of the other categories listed on Appendix 1 or required a fee to be agreed with the Chief Planning Officer. The officer explained that a bespoke fee would be agreed in advance based on the likely time taken, the level of experience of the officer and if any other specialists needed to give advice.

The Cabinet member asked how Derby City Council compared to other local authorities of a similar size in relation to the cost of fees for pre-application advice. The officer confirmed that Derby City Council had lower fees in comparison to other similar sized local authorities and explained that in future fees would be reviewed on a more regular basis. The pre-application fee process worked as it screened out the more speculative applications. The Cabinet Member agreed that officer time was an important consideration.

The Cabinet Member agreed the recommendation at 2.1 of the report with the addition of inclusion of "Category 1" – Advice which was not covered by any of the other categories or needs a bespoke fee to be agreed with the Chief Planning Officer.

The Cabinet Member Resolved to endorse the revision to the adopted charging regime for pre-application advice as identified in Appendix 1, with the addition of "Category 1" – Advice which was not covered in any of the other categories or requires a fee to be agreed with the Chief Planning Officer with such changes coming into effect on 31 December 2022.

MINUTES END