



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

PLANNING CONTROL COMMITTEE 24 NOVEMBER 2005

Joint Report of the Directors of Corporate Services and Development
and Cultural Services

Planning Control Committee – Workload and Organisational Issues

RECOMMENDATION

1. To decide whether to continue to hold meetings of the Planning Control Committee twice a month, except in January and August.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting on 28 April 2005, the Committee considered a report concerning the operation of the Committee and resolved to change the frequency of meetings to twice a month, except in January and August, with effect from the 2005/06 municipal year, for a trial period of six months. There had been concerns about the length of the previous monthly meetings and the effect of long meetings on the efficient conduct of business.
- 2.2 Since the decision was taken to move to a twice monthly frequency, meetings have lasted, on average, 1.5/2 hours compared with an average of 3.5/4 hours for the previous monthly meetings. One meeting was cancelled due to a lack of items to report. The decision to reduce public speaking time to three minutes has had an impact on the length of meetings (see attached Appendix).
- 2.3 The Committee is asked to decide whether to continue to hold meetings twice a month.

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Background papers:

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Implications

Appendix 2 – timings of meetings

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None directly arising.

Legal

2. None directly arising.

Personnel

3. The move to fortnightly meetings has put additional pressure on officers and a number of support functions in Corporate Services and Development and Cultural Services. It has necessitated the reprioritising of development control administrative activities.

Equalities Impact

4. None directly arising.

Corporate Themes and Priorities

5. The proposals support the corporate objective – **We will be open, transparent and honest in everything we do** – and the corporate priority for change – **We will decide planning applications more quickly, maintaining the quality of decision-making.**

Two Committee meetings per month Jun 05 - Oct 05

	Applications	Speakers	Duration
9 June 05	2	1	50mins
23 June 05	10	7	2 hrs 5mins
7 July 05	6	2	35mins
21 July 05	8	5	1 hr 10mins
25 August 05	14	7	2 hrs 40mins
8 Sept 05	9	4	1 hr 35mins
29 Sept 05	8	10	1 hr 25mins
13 Oct 05	Cancelled		
27 Oct 05	11	8	2 hrs 15mins
Totals	85	45	12 hrs 35mins

One Committee meeting per month Jan 05 – May 05

	Applications	Speakers	Duration
27 Jan 05	10	3	2 hrs
24 Feb 05	17	16	3 hrs
24 Mar 05	21	5	1 hr 45mins
28 Apr 05	21	12	3 hrs 50mins
26 May 05	17	9	3hrs 20mins
Totals	119	83	13 hrs 55mins