



**Rochford District  
Council**

# **Questionnaire on Planning Committee and Related Issues**



**INVESTOR IN PEOPLE**  
7.14

June 2005

# Questionnaire on Planning Committee and Related Issues

1 Are planning applications determined by:

Full Committee of Council?

☐

Sub-Committee?

☐

Other (e.g. Areas Committee)?

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2 Does the Committee have full executive powers?

☐ Yes☐ No

If No, briefly explain the process/call in arrangements:

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3 Number of Councillors on the Committee?

4 How are Members chosen to serve on the Committee?

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5 What role do non-members of the Planning Committee fulfil?

Do they lobby?

☐ Yes☐ No

Regularly attend the Committee Meetings?

☐ Yes☐ No

Present a case on behalf of objectors/supporters?

☐ Yes☐ No

**Other comments** on how Members fulfil their role:

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6 Approximately how many items are determined  
by each meeting of the Planning Committee?

7 Is there public speaking at the Planning Committee?

☐ Yes☐ No

If Yes, it would be helpful to receive a copy of the protocol.

8 Arrangements for site visits

Are all sites visited?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Sites visited at Member request?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**Comments:**

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9 What do you see as the strengths and weakness of your Planning Committee?  
(e.g. accountability, public speaking, good appeal record)

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10 Does the Committee operate a red card system  
allowing applications to be deferred if the Committee  
disagrees with the officer recommendation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

What are the arrangements, i.e. defer decision until next meeting?

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11 If there is a 'red card' system, how do you think this impacts on the credibility and  
decisiveness of the Committee decisions?

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12 Is there an arrangement requiring a Member(s) to  
attend an Appeal Hearing supported by Officers where  
an Officer recommendation is overturned?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**Comments:**

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- 13 Do Members of the Planning Committee have to Attend training sessions? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is this training compulsory? ☐ Yes ☐ No

14 What arrangements/systems are used to present reports/plans to the Committee, i.e. all documents are presented electronically?

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15 What venue is used for Planning Committee meetings, what are the seating arrangements?

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16 Have you recently reviewed, the operation of the Planning Committee? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, could you provide details of the review?

17 Would it be possible for a small number of Rochford Members to visit a meeting of the Planning Committee? ☐ Yes ☐ No

18 Could you provide a copy of a recent Committee report?

19 What advantages or disadvantages do you think your Authority's Committee structure has over Rochford's 'Full Council' generally and for your Members in particular?

Comments:

20 Contact details

Name of Officer: .....

Authority: .....

Tel: .....

Email: .....

***Thank you for taking time to complete this questionnaire***

***Please return by 31 July 2005***