



**Rochford District
Council**

Questionnaire on Planning Committee and Related Issues



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE
7.17

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)?

☐

2 Does the Committee have full executive powers?

☐ Yes☐ No

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

.....

.....

.....

3 Number of Councillors on the Committee?

4 How are Members chosen to serve on the Committee?

.....

.....

.....

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:

.....

.....

.....

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:

.....

.....

.....

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

.....

.....

.....

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?

.....

.....

.....

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

.....

.....

.....

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:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- 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?

.....

.....

.....

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

.....

.....

.....

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