

Introduction

The Council deal with approximately 1000 planning applications every year. Of those, Officers deal with 80% under the Council's scheme of delegation. The remaining 20% are decided by the Development Control Committee.

This leaflet tells you how you can speak at the Committee's meeting if you wish.

The Committee

The Council's Development Control Committee consists of locally elected Councillors. The Committee meets at the **Town Hall, Talbot Square, Blackpool every three weeks on a Monday at 5.00 pm** and the dates of the meetings are available on request together with a list of the Members from the Democratic Services Unit, who can be contacted on 477153, or e-mailed at democracy@blackpool.gov.uk

The Agenda

The Committee has an Agenda, which includes reports on individual planning applications. These reports have been prepared by the Council's Planning Officers who make recommendations to the Committee, which then decides the applications.

The Officers

Planning and Legal Officers attend the meeting to assist and advise the Committee. Other specialist Officers may attend from time to time in relation to specific applications.

Order of Business

The order of business does not necessarily follow the numerical order as it appears on the Agenda. Items for which members of the public are present are usually dealt with first. It is extremely important therefore that when you arrive at the Committee Room in the Town Hall you advise the Democratic Services Officer which item you are interested in and whether you are attending as an

applicant, a supporter of, or an objector to, an application.

All speakers will be expected to provide their names and addresses. We advise you to prepare what you want to say in advance. There will be a limited number of Agendas available at the Committee for members of the public.

Procedure

1. **The Chairman of the Committee will briefly introduce each planning application by referring to the page number of the Agenda on which it can be found, the application number and a brief description of the proposed development.**
2. **The Planning Officer may then highlight points of particular importance. If the Officers have prepared a Powerpoint presentation it will be shown at this point in the proceedings.**
3. **Members of the Committee may then question the Planning Officer on points of fact or policy contained within the report.**

Speaking by Objectors

4. **The objector, or a representative of the objectors (if more than one is present), will then be invited to address the Committee. An objector will be allowed to speak for no longer than three minutes (the Chairman in exceptional circumstances may allow more than one speaker where it is considered beneficial to the consideration of the application, but the total allocated time of three minutes will be split between the number of speakers, e.g. three speakers will receive one minute each);**
5. **Members of the Committee may then question the objector(s) for clarification or extra information.**

Speaking by Applicants

6. **The applicant or agent or supporter will then be invited to address the Committee for no longer than three minutes. If both applicant and agent/supporter apply to speak, precedence will be given to the applicant. If the applicant would like to speak and would like the agent/supporter to also speak, the same limitations regarding time limits as in (4) above will apply.**
7. **Members of the Committee may then question the applicant or agent or supporter for clarification or extra information.**

Speaking by Ward Councillors

8. **Any Ward Councillor who is not a Member of the Committee and does not have a prejudicial interest may then be allowed to address the meeting about the planning application being considered.**

Committee Decision

9. **Members of the Committee will then discuss the planning application, and will then make a decision on the application or, if appropriate, defer the application for further information or decide to visit the site.**

Site visits are normally undertaken before the next meeting of the Committee

Confidentiality

Occasionally confidential items need to be discussed. These are known as press and public excluded items. In these circumstances, if members of the public are present the Chairman will ask them and representatives of the press to leave the room

Conduct

From time to time debates on planning applications will be lively as they raise issues about which Members and the public will feel strongly. It is the role of the Chairman to maintain order and discipline. Members of the public can observe proceedings but cannot address the meeting apart from by the procedure described above. If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings or is otherwise disruptive then he/she can be asked by the Chairman to leave the room.

After hearing the Committee's decision on the application(s) in which Members of the public are interested, they are welcome to stay and listen to the discussion on other applications.

Decisions

Written confirmation of decisions made by the Development Control Committee, including details of any planning conditions imposed on planning approvals or reasons for refusal will be sent to all those who made written observations on an application and all those who spoke at the Committee on that application.

Appeals

The Committee's decision can be challenged by the applicants on appeal to the First Secretary of State for the Department of Culture and Communities if their application is refused, or if conditions are imposed which they do not agree with. In this event, anyone who has written about the original application or who has spoken about the application at the Committee will be informed. Third parties, for example objectors, cannot appeal to the Secretary of State against a decision to grant permission.



If you have any queries regarding this procedure, please address them to:

Mark Lewis
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
P O Box 1066
Town Hall
Blackpool FY1 1GB

or

Telephone No: 01253 477153
Fax No: 01253 477138
E-Mail: democracy@blackpool.gov.uk

Deciding Planning Applications



Blackpool Borough Council

This leaflet has been prepared to help members of the public understand the way the Development Control Committee operates and how they can participate in the proceedings.