

Meeting	Planning and Environment Committee
Date	23 October 2012
Subject	Member’s Item – Changes in Planning
Report of	Head of Governance
Summary	This report informs the Sub-Committee of a Member’s Item and requests instructions from the Sub-Committee

Officer Contributors	Maria Lugangira – Governance Service
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	Not applicable
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	Not Applicable
Function of	Council
Enclosures	None
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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 **The Committee's instructions are requested.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 None.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 As and when issues raised in this way are progressed they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None in the context of this report.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 Members' Items allow Members of the Sub-Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of the Sub-Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 None in the context of this report.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 None in the context of this report.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)

- 8.1 Constitution Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions – Area Environment Sub-Committees perform functions that are the responsibility of the Executive including highways use and regulation not the responsibility of the Council, within the boundaries of their areas in accordance with Council policy and within budget.
- 8.2 Council Procedure Rules Section 2 - Committees and Sub-Committees – Paragraph 7.1 states a Member will be permitted to have one matter only (with no sub-items) on the agenda for a meeting of a committee or sub-committee on which he/she serves.
- 8.3 The Head of Governance must receive written notice of a Member's Item at least seven clear working days before the meeting. Any item received after 11p.m. will be recorded as received on the next working day. The item must be signed by the member and delivered by hand, fax or email. Under Council Procedure Rules, Section 2, paragraph 7.3 any item received after that deadline can only be accepted for consideration at the meeting if the Chairman agrees it as urgent.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 Councillor Anita Campbell has requested that a Member's Item be considered as set out at 9.2.

9.2 The government has made a set of proposals and suggestions on planning as follows:

- Plans to strip individual local councils of responsibility for planning if they are deemed to be too slow to approve developments - a move that Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association described as "a blow to local democracy."
- Suggestions from the Chancellor, George Osborne, that the rules on building on the greenbelt should be relaxed (denied by Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles at Conservative Party Conference).
- Proposals to allow larger home and business extensions (almost double the size) without planning permission.

I believe these suggestions and proposals are an attack on local democracy and Localism, they will result in an attack on green and open spaces, and the greenbelt, they will set resident against resident (in the case of larger extensions), and they should be opposed at all costs.

Some local authorities have already stated their opposition to these proposals, including Richmond, who are seeking ways to defy any new legislation on allowing larger extensions without planning permission.

I ask for these issues to be debated by the Planning & Environment Committee with a view to the Committee passing a motion calling on Council to say what they are doing to oppose these measures, and, in particular, whether they will follow Richmond and other councils in defying the government on larger extensions without planning permission, including stating their opposition to the plans in the government's consultation.