

TOWN AREA COMMITTEE

16 NOVEMBER 2015

REPORT OF HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSIDERING PLANNING AND LICENSING APPLICATIONS

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To make arrangements for the Committee's engagement on planning and licensing applications.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The Committee will receive applications of the nature and scale described at paras. 3.2 and 3.4 below.**
- 2.2 **That the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements are reviewed after a period of 1 year.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Committee has included in its remit a role on commenting on planning and licensing issues. Following discussion it is considered that it would be inappropriate and unnecessary for the Committee to consider all such applications, and would be disproportionate in terms of the time and administration required. The background to this is that the Committee's core function is to consider the interest of the whole town of Melton Mowbray and many – smaller scale – applications have an impact that is limited to their immediate surroundings.
- 3.2 It is therefore proposed that the Committee will receive only 'major' applications. 'Major' is defined, for these purposes, of applications of 10 houses or more and an equivalent floorspace for retail, industrial commercial and other types of development of 1000m².
- 3.3 It is similarly considered that most applications under the Licensing Act (and related legislation) are unrelated to issues that may affect the wider town, and indeed that many do not relate to a geographical area in any way (e.g taxi licences of various kinds). In addition, such licences carry with them very precise deadlines and no other community-focussed consultation requirements.
- 3.4 It is therefore proposed that there are no routine arrangements for the consideration of licences. However, this does not prevent them being considered in exceptional circumstances, i.e. if a licence was of such a scale and/or level of public interest that it could be viewed as impacting on the wider Town area. It is considered that such circumstances could be considered by the Committee on an ad-hoc basis.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no policy and corporate implications arising from this report

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There will be very limited resource implications in ensuring the Committee is sent the appropriate applications and its comments relayed back to the Planning Committee. This will be incorporated into existing procedures and can be met from within existing budgets.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 None

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 None

9.0 RISKS

9.1 None – the measures proposed are intended to ensure the Committee’s influence is commensurate with its role as set out in the Constitution.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 None

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 Consultation took place at the first meeting of the Committee on 19th October 2015.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards within the town are affected by these arrangements

Contact Officer: J Worley

Date: 14 October 2015