

Planning Committee

05 March 2021 Agenda item number 14

Review of Scheme of delegated powers to officers

Report by Director of Strategic Services

Summary

Officers are proposing some changes to the planning section of the Scheme of powers delegated to officers, as part of a wider update of the Scheme.

Recommendation

To endorse the draft changes to the planning section of the Scheme and recommend it to the Broads Authority for approval.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The <u>'Scheme of powers delegated to officers'</u> ('the Scheme') is an important constitutional document. Its purpose is to ensure that officers are empowered to make decisions and take appropriate action in a timely and efficient manner. Section E, starting on page 5, relates to planning. The May 2019 Scheme is the current version and should be read in conjunction with the 'Powers delegated to Chief Executive arrangements for the exercise of powers by other officers' (October 2018).
- 1.2. Officers have reviewed the scheme and would like to propose some changes to make it easier to understand and to update relevant sections. The two documents referred to

in 1.1. have been amalgamated into a single document in the revised draft Scheme. The details of the proposed changes relevant to planning and their rationale are detailed in section 2.

2. Proposed changes to the planning section

- 2.1. Some additional information and updates have been included in the delegation tables, including updates to the 'Other authorised officers' column (currently Appendix 1 in the 2018 scheme) to clarify which officers are authorised to carry out the specified tasks.
- 2.2. Officers propose a change on the applications which could be delegated to officers when representations are received. This applies to (37) (iv) and (37) (v), where the following additional wording is proposed: "and it is proposed to grant planning permission". At the moment, a decision needs to be made by Planning Committee when representations are received in respect of any proposed development within the 21-day period for consultation where these raise material planning considerations of significant weight, whether or not it is proposed to grant permission. The change would enable officers to determine applications under delegated powers where it is proposed to refuse planning permission. Applications where it is proposed to grant planning permission would continue to be determined by the Planning Committee.
- 2.3. There are changes which update the latest relevant regulations. For example, the "Town and Country Planning (General Development Management Procedure) Order 2010" is replaced by the "Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015".
- 2.4. References to documents which are no longer used are removed. For example, references to the Local Development Framework are deleted.
- 2.5. Reference to Section 215 Notices has been added to (46), as this was missing.
- 2.6. A section on conservation areas has been added at (48), as this was missing.
- 2.7. Officers propose to add a level of precision to the section on Tree Preservation Orders. This applies to (49) where the following wording is proposed to be added: "where no objection in writing to the provisional Order has been received" in place of "non-controversial".
- 2.8. A section on heritage is proposed to be added at (62) as: "To make recommendations to Historic England on buildings worthy of inclusion on the national list of buildings of historical or special interest."
- 2.9. A section on planning policy is proposed to be added at (63) as: "To respond to consultations on planning policy documents in respect of land outside the Authority's Executive Area, subject to consideration by the Planning Committee of those documents that have serious implications for the Broads."

- 2.10. Some changes throughout the document are proposed to improve the wording and make it easier to understand.
- 2.11. The order of the sections has been reviewed, to make the flow of the text easier to follow and to group together similar areas of work.
- 2.12. The numbering of the bullet points, starting at (37), follows the numbering in the amended Scheme, and may be subject to changes as necessary.

3. Financial implications

3.1. It is in the public interest for the Broads Authority as a local planning authority to have effective delegation arrangements in place to ensure that decisions on planning applications are made in a timely manner.

4. Conclusion

4.1. The full revised scheme of powers delegated to officers will need to be decided by the Broads Authority at a future meeting, where Planning Committee comments will be provided.

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Date of report: 15 February 2021

Appendix 1 – Proposed changes to the planning part of the Scheme of Delegated Powers (clean version)

Appendix 2 – Proposed changes to the planning part of the Scheme of Delegated Powers (in track change)

Appendix 1 - Proposed changes to the planning part of the Scheme of Delegated Powers (clean version)

Planning and heritage

Where reference is made to 'Planning Team', it includes the following roles: Planning Policy Officer, Senior Planning Officer, Planning Officer, Planning Assistant, Historic Environment Manager, Planning Officer (Heritage), Planning Officer (Compliance and Implementation), planning administration team.

Power	s delegated to Chief Executive	Other authorised officers
	All planning applications ¹ are considered to fall within e delegation scheme and will be determined by icers, unless:	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or
(i)	it is for a major development as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015;	Senior Planning Officer
(ii)	the application represents a departure from the development plan policies, including the Broads Local Plan and any relevant policy adopted by the Authority, and it is proposed to grant planning permission;	
(iii)	objections are received from any statutory consultee (excluding parish councils) in respect of any proposed development within the 21-day period for consultation, and it is proposed to grant planning permission;	
(iv)	representations are received in writing from parish councils in respect of any proposed development within the 21-day period for consultation where these raise material planning considerations of significant weight, and it is proposed to grant planning permission;	
(v)	representations are received in writing from other persons in respect of any proposed development within the 21-day period for consultation where these raise material planning considerations of	

¹ The applications and notification shall include planning permission, approval of reserved matters, advertisement consent, listed building consent, conservation area consent submitted under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 and consent under the Hazardous Substances regulations. ©

Power	s delegated to Chief Executive	Other authorised officers
	significant weight, and it is proposed to grant planning permission;	
(vi)	any member of the Authority requests, within 21 days of receipt of the schedule of planning applications, that the application is placed before the Planning Committee for a decision, and provides a material planning reason of significant weight for that request in writing;	
(vii)	the Ward member of the relevant District Council requests, within 21 days of receipt of the schedule of planning applications, that the application is placed before the Planning Committee for a decision, and provides a material planning reason of significant weight for that request in writing;	
(viii)	the Director of Strategic Services considers the matter ought more appropriately to be referred to the Planning Committee for a decision;	
(ix)	any Authority member (including co-opted members of the Navigation Committee) or Authority officer is involved in the application.	
(38)	In respect of planning applications:	Director of Strategic
(i)	to sign and issue the formal decision notices on planning matters that have been before the Planning Committee or determined under delegated powers;	Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(ii)	to impose detailed conditions on planning permissions granted by the Authority (including deemed permissions);	
(iii)	to determine the appropriate grounds where permission is either refused or approved;	
(iv)	to refuse a planning application, if within six months of any decision to enter into a Section 106 Agreement by Committee that Agreement has not been signed;	
(v)	to settle the terms of Section 106 Agreements required in connection with planning applications, including amendments to existing Section 106 agreements.	

Powers delegated to Chief Executive		Other authorised officers
(39)	To approve details submitted in accordance with a condition of a planning consent.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(40)	To determine reasons for decisions.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(41)	To formally discharge planning conditions upon compliance.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(42)	In respect of non-material amendments to planning applications: to define in individual cases what constitutes a non-	In respect of (i), Head of Planning or member of Planning Team
(1)	material amendment; and	In respect of (ii), Director of
(ii)	to determine applications for non-material amendments except in cases that fall within paragraph 37 (ix) of this scheme.	Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(43)	In respect of Prior Approval applications, to exercise the power available to the Authority with regard to the siting, design and external appearance and all other matters.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(44)	To determine which planning applications should be referred to the Navigation Committee for consultation, in accordance with Section 9 (6) (a) (iv) of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
	In respect of applications for a Lawful Development Certificate (Existing or Proposed): to consider and determine the application on the facts presented, subject to consultation with the Authority's solicitor in complex cases or where the evidence is not clear; and to sign and issue the formal decision.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer

Powers delegated to Chief Executive		Other authorised officers
(46)	To serve Breach of Condition Notices, Planning Contravention Notices, Section 330 Notices and Section 215 Notices.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Planning Officer (Compliance and Implementation)
(47)	In cases of urgency and subject to consultation (if possible) with the Chair, or in the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair, of the Planning Committee:	Director of Strategic Services, or: • in respect of (i) and (ii),
(i)	to serve Building Preservation Notices;	Historic Environment Manager or Head of
(ii)	to issue Listed Building Enforcement Notices and Conservation Area Enforcement Notices;	Planning · in respect of (iii) and (iv),
(iii)	to issue Enforcement Notices, Stop Notices and Temporary Stop Notices;	Head of Planning
(iv)	to take enforcement action in respect of unauthorised advertisements.	
(48)	In respect of Conservation Areas:	Director of Strategic
(i)	to agree the scope of a Conservation Area reappraisal (existing) or appraisal (new) with the relevant District Council;	Services or Head of Planning or Historic Environment Manager
(ii)	to undertake an assessment of an existing Conservation Area and prepare a draft reappraisal for consultation; and	
(iii)	to identify areas suitable for Conservation Area designation and prepare a draft appraisal for consultation.	
(49)	In respect of Tree Preservation Orders:	Director of Strategic
(i)	to make and serve Tree Preservation Orders;	Services or Head of Planning or Historic Environment Manager
(ii)	to confirm Tree Preservation Orders where no objection in writing to the provisional Order has been received.	
(50)	 (i) To deal with applications to lop, top and fell trees in Conservation Areas. (ii) To determine applications to lop, top or fell trees within Tree Preservation Orders or Groups. 	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or

Powe	rs delegated to Chief Executive	Other authorised officers
		Historic Environment Manager
(51)	To implement the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 in authorising rights of entry, administrative consultation arrangements and the use of outside assistance.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Historic Environment Manager
(52)	To comment on non-controversial felling licence applications and broadleaved woodland grant schemes.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Historic Environment Manager
(53)	To respond to consultations from the Forestry Commission on applications for grants and Forestry Grant Schemes in relation to areas up to 10 hectares.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Historic Environment Manager
(54)	To give observations in respect of development by other authorities, government departments and statutory undertakers, subject to consideration by the Planning Committee of those applications that have serious implications for the Broads.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer or Historic Environment Manager
(55)	To submit observations on environmental issues and to lodge holding objections in respect of applications for Goods Vehicle Operators Licences.	Director of Strategic Services or Historic Environment Manager or Head of Planning
(56)	To reply to consultation on certified sites for camping and caravanning and for caravan and tent rally sites.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or member of Planning Team
(57)	To determine whether an environmental impact assessment is required, and to agree the scope of any environmental statement under the Environmental Impact Regulations 2017.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(58)	To determine whether applications are likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, following	Director of Strategic Services or Head of

Powe	rs delegated to Chief Executive	Other authorised officers
	consultation with Natural England, under the terms of the Conservation (Natural Habitats Etc) Regulations 1994.	Planning, in consultation with Environment Policy Adviser
(59)	To respond to consultations on planning applications in respect of land outside the Authority's Executive Area, subject to consideration by the Planning Committee of those applications that have serious implications for the Broads.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(60)	In respect of applications that are located across the boundary of the Authority's area and partly in the area of the adjacent LPA:	Head of Planning or member of Planning Team
	(i) to consider and decide whether the application should be dealt with by one or both LPAs; and	
	(ii) to delegate to the adjacent LPA where appropriate; or	
	(iii) to determine the applications on behalf of both LPAs.	
(61)	To fulfil the Authority's role as a Competent Authority with regard to consideration of development proposals affecting Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation in the Broads, including the determination of Appropriate Assessments.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning, in consultation with Environment Policy Adviser
(62)	To make recommendations to Historic England on buildings worthy of inclusion on the national list of buildings of historical or special interest.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Historic Environment Manager
(63)	To respond to consultations on planning policy documents in respect of land outside the Authority's Executive Area, subject to consideration by the Planning Committee of those documents that have serious implications for the Broads.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Planning Policy Officer

Appendix 2 - Proposed changes to the planning part of the Scheme of Delegated Powers (in track change)

2(e) Planning and heritage

Where reference is made to 'Planning Team', it includes the following roles: Planning Policy Officer, Senior Planning Officer, Planning Officer, Planning Assistant, Historic Environment Manager, Planning Officer (Heritage), Planning Officer (Compliance and Implementation), planning administration team.

Power	s delegated to Chief Executive	Other authorised officers
	All planning applications ² are considered to fall within e delegation scheme and will be determined by icers, unless:	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or
(x)	it is for a major development as defined in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 201 <u>5</u> 9;	Senior Planning Officer
(xi)	the application represents a departure from the development plan policies, including the Broads Local Plan/Local Development Framework and any relevant policy adopted by the Authority, and it is proposed to grant planning permission;	
(xii)	objections are received from any statutory consultee (excluding parish councils) in respect of any proposed development within the 21-day period for consultation, and it is proposed to grant planning permission;	
(xiii	representations are received in writing from parish councils in respect of any proposed development within the 21-day period for consultation where these raise material planning considerations of significant weight, and it is proposed to grant planning permission;	
(xiv)	representations are received in writing from other persons in respect of any proposed development within the 21-day period for consultation where these raise material planning considerations of	

² The applications and notification shall include planning permission, approval of reserved matters, advertisement consent, listed building consent, conservation area consent, prior approval applications submitted under The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 and consent under the Hazardous Substances regulations. ©

Powers delegated to Chief Executive	Other authorised officers
significant weight, and it is proposed to grant planning permission;	
 (xv) any member of the Authority requests, within 21 days of receipt of the schedule of planning applications, that the application is placed before the Planning Committee for a decision, and provides a material planning reason of significant weight for that request in writing; 	
(xvi) the Ward member of the relevant District Council requests, within 21 days of receipt of the schedule of planning applications, that the application is placed before the Planning Committee for a decision, and provides a material planning reason of significant weight for that request in writing;	
(xvii) the Director of Strategic Services considers that the matter ought more appropriately to be referred to the Planning Committee for a decision;	
(xviii) any Authority member or member of staff of the Authority,(-including co-opted members of the Navigation Committee) or Authority officer is involved in the application.	
(38) In respect of planning applications:	Director of Strategic
(vi) to sign and issue the formal decision notices on planning matters that have been before the Planning Committee or determined under delegated powers;	Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(vii) to impose detailed conditions on planning permissions granted by the Authority (including deemed permissions);	
(viii) to determine the appropriate grounds where permission is either refused or approved;	
(ix) to refuse a planning application, if within six months of any decision to enter into a Section 106 Agreement by Committee that Agreement has not been signed;	
(x) to settle the terms of Section 106 Agreements required in connection with planning applications, including amendments to existing Section 106 agreements.	

Powers delegated to Chief Executive	Other authorised officers
(38)(39) To approve details submitted in accordance with a condition of a planning consent.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(39)(40) To determine reasons for decisions.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(40)(41) To formally discharge planning conditions upon compliance.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
 (42) In respect of non-material amendments to planning applications: (iii) to define in individual cases what constitutes a non-material amendment; and (iv) to determine applications for non-material amendments except in cases that fall within paragraph 37 (ix) of this scheme. 	In respect of (i), Head of Planning or member of Planning Team In respect of (ii), Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(43) In respect of Prior Approval applications, to exercise the power available to the Authority with regard to the siting, design and external appearance and all other matters.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(44) To determine which planning applications should be referred to the Navigation Committee for consultation, in accordance with Section 9 (6) (a) (iv) of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(45) In respect of applications for a Lawful Development Certificate (Existing or Proposed): (iii) to consider and determine the application on the facts presented, subject to consultation with the Authority's solicitor in complex cases or where the evidence is not clear; and (iv) to sign and issue the formal decision.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer

Powers delegated to Chief Executive	Other authorised officers
(41)(46) To serve Breach of Condition Notices, Planning Contravention Notices, Notices and Section 215 Notices.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Planning Officer (Compliance and Implementation)
 (42)(47) In cases of urgency and subject to consultation (if possible) with the Chair, or in the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair, of the Planning Committee: (v) to serve Building Preservation Notices; (vi) to issue Listed Building Enforcement Notices and Conservation Area Enforcement Notices; (vii) to issue Enforcement Notices, Stop Notices and Temporary Stop Notices; (viii) to take enforcement action in respect of unauthorised advertisements. 	Director of Strategic Services or: -or Senior Planning Officer · in respect of (i) and (ii), Historic Environment Officer or Head of Planning · in respect of (iii) and (iv), Head of Planning
 (iv) to agree the scope of a Conservation Area reappraisal (existing) or appraisal (new) with the relevant District Council; (v) to undertake an assessment of an existing Conservation Area and prepare a draft reappraisal for consultation; and (vi) to identify areas suitable for Conservation Area designation and prepare a draft appraisal for consultation. 	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Historic Environment Manager
 (49) In respect of Tree Preservation Orders: (iii) t∓o make and serve Tree Preservation Orders; (iv) to, and confirm non-controversial Tree Preservation Orders where no objection in writing to the provisional Order has been received. 	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Historic Environment Manager
(50) (i) To deal with applications to lop, top and fell trees in Conservation Areas.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or

Powers delegated to Chief Executive	Other authorised officers
(ii) To determine applications to lop, top or fell trees within Tree Preservation Orders or Groups.	Historic Environment Manager
(51) To implement the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 in authorising rights of entry, administrative consultation arrangements and the use of outside assistance.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Historic Environment Manager
(43)(52) To comment on non-controversial felling licence applications and broadleaved woodland grant schemes.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Historic Environment Manager
(44)(53) To make observations to respond to consultations from the Forestry Commission on applications for grants and Forestry Grant Schemes and consultations over dedication schemes and the Commission's own new planting proposals in relation to areas up to 10 hectares.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Historic Environment Manager
(54) To give observations in respect of development by other authorities, government departments and statutory undertakers, subject to consideration by the Planning Committee of those applications that have serious implications for the Broads.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer or Historic Environment Manager
To deal with notices to lop, top and fell trees in conservation areas.	
To determine applications to lop, top and fell trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders or Groups.	
(45)(55) To submit observations on environmental issues and to lodge holding objections in respect of applications for Goods Vehicle Operators Licences.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Historic Environment Manager
(46)(56) To reply to consultation on certified sites for camping and caravanning and for caravan and tent rally sites.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or member of Planning Team

Powers delegated to Chief Executive	Other authorised officers
(47) In respect of planning applications:	
(i) to sign and issue the formal decision notices on planning matters which have been before the Planning Committee or determined under delegated powers.	
(ii) to impose detailed conditions on planning permissions granted by the Authority (including deemed permissions).	
(iii) to determine the appropriate grounds where permission is either refused or approved.	
(iv)(i) to refuse a planning application, if within six months of any decision to enter into a Section 106 Agreement by Committee, that Agreement has not been signed.	
To determine which planning applications should be referred to the Navigation Committee for consultation in accordance with Section 9 (6)(a)(iv) of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988.	
(48)(57) To determine whether an environmental impact assessment is required, and to agree the scope of any environmental statement under the Environmental Impact Regulations 19992017.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
To determine whether to exercise the discretionary power available to the Authority with regard to the siting, design and external appearance of agricultural and forestry buildings and the siting and means of construction of private roads for agricultural and forestry purposes.	
(49)(58) To determine whether applications are likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, following consultation with Natural England, under the terms of the Conservation (Natural Habitats Etc) Regulations 1994.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning, in consultation with Environment Policy Adviser
To implement the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 in authorising rights of entry, administrative consultation arrangements and the use of outside assistance.	

Powers delegated to Chief Executive	Other authorised officers
To give observations in respect of development by other authorities, government departments and statutory undertakers where there are no outstanding objections which cannot be met within the terms of the observations.	
To determine Forestry Grant applications up to £5,000.	
(50)(59) To respond to consultations on planning applications in respect of land outside the Authority's Executive Area, subject to consideration by the Planning Committee of those applications that have serious implications for the Broads, either in landscape or environmental terms.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Senior Planning Officer
(60) In respect of applications that are located across the boundary of the Authority's area and partly in the area of the adjacent LPA: (iv) to consider and decide whether the application should be dealt with by one or both LPAs; and (v) to delegate to the adjacent LPA where appropriate; or (vi) to determine the applications on behalf of both LPAs.	Head of Planning or member of Planning Team
(51)(61) To fulfil the Authority's role as a Competent Authority with regard to consideration of development proposals affecting Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation in the Broads, including the determination of Appropriate Assessments.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning, in consultation with Environment Policy Adviser
(52) In respect of non-material amendments to planning applications: (i) to define in individual cases that constitutes a non-material amendments; and (ii)(i) to determine applications for non-material amendments except in cases that fall within paragraph 37(ix) of this Scheme.	

Powe	rs delegated to Chief Executive	Other authorised officers
To set	tle the terms of Section 106 Agreements required in connection with planning applications, including amendments to existing Section 106 Agreements.	
(62)	To make recommendations to Historic England on buildings worthy of inclusion on the national list of buildings of historical or special interest.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Historic Environment Manager
(63)	To respond to consultations on planning policy documents in respect of land outside the Authority's Executive Area, subject to consideration by the Planning Committee of those documents that have serious implications for the Broads.	Director of Strategic Services or Head of Planning or Planning Policy Officer