

URGENT BUSINESS

Postponement of Planning Regulatory Committee Meeting scheduled for 28 March 2022

Report of the Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree to the postponement of the Planning Regulatory Committee in view of lack of power at Morecambe Town Hall and concerns for public safety

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Planning Regulatory Committee scheduled for 28 March 2022 be postponed for public safety reasons following lack of power at Morecambe Town Hall.**

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Planning Regulatory Committee was scheduled to be held on 28 March 2022 at 10.30am at Morecambe Town Hall. There had been some power outage reported at the venue prior to the weekend and on arrival at Morecambe Town Hall at 7.00am Facilities staff noticed that the power supply was not stable.

The power outage affected the lift, emergency lighting, wi-fi, heating, hot water and the swipe access to the building and in view of this Property group raised concern as to whether the proposed public meeting should be held in view of public safety.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 That given the exceptional circumstances the Chef Executive has been asked to postpone the Planning Regulatory Committee in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the meeting's intended attendees.

3.0 Consultation

- 3.1 In line with the Urgent Business Procedure set out in the Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Part 2, Section 7 of the Constitution) , there has been consultation with Councillor Budden, Chair of the Planning Regulatory Committee.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 Arrangements will now be made to re-schedule the meeting and a date will be confirmed in due course.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

The decision is being taken as a matter of urgency to protect the health, safety and welfare of individuals

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are time limits for the determination of planning applications and the postponement of the meeting may affect whether or not a planning decision has been made within the required period. This could result in appeals for non-determination. However, in the circumstances, it is considered that the LPA has little choice but to postpone the meeting and that appeals on this basis are unlikely. If appeals are lodged, it is thought that the Council's approach will be considered reasonable in the circumstances and that this should afford protection against findings of adverse costs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

None.

Information Services:

None.

Property:

As above

Open Spaces:

None.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 officer has been consulted and has no further comments

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add

BACKGROUND PAPERS

n/a

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