

Item 5(f) - Appendix H

Member feedback requested by Cllr J Davison	
Comments	Proposed Cabinet response
Local Member involvement and the right to have 'the last word' – local representation	Local Members make representations to DC Committee after the other speakers and as such speak last. Committee Members are able to ask questions of clarification to local members in advance of the debate.
Membership of DC Committee is not geographically spread	Members on DC Committee are representing the District rather than their ward. The Membership includes a broad geographical spread, and includes members from the three principal towns
Timing of Site Inspections	Site inspections on the day of the DC meeting enable issues to be fresh in the minds of members when they consider applications in the evening. Always being on the same day should enable Committee Members to plan their attendance accordingly.
Site Visit attendance could include people who have commented on an application	The purpose of the site visit is for DC Committee members to assess the implications of a development. It is not an opportunity for anyone else who has an interest in the application to view the site.
Meeting is now unnecessarily longer due to question time	There are often a number of questions put to Officers at the meeting before the debate. This is appropriate as it enables DC Committee members to be fully aware of a proposal before it is debated and determined. There is no requirement to ask questions. Should Members require clarification on a proposal it is preferable for them to contact the relevant Officer in advance of the Committee meeting.
Fewer references to Committee and shorter meetings	July 08 to June 09 6.2% of applications went to DC Committee July 09 to June 10 3.7% of applications went to DC Committee
Preferred more plans on the agenda papers	All information is now available on the Council's website, including letters of representation and local Council comments. The relevant link is provided on the Committee papers. This is more appropriate than copying a selected amount of information in the Agenda papers. The varying quality of submitted plans made copying inconsistent and unhelpful for Members, and the additional printing and paper represented an inefficient use of resources.
The Member who refers an application should attend and speak, or arrange for a colleague to speak on their behalf	Noted

