



Planning Committee – Urgency Action Procedures (Covid-19)

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, and in accordance with the Council's Constitution which allows for Directors / Heads of Service to authorise any action as a matter of urgency on such matters which they deem to require urgent action (where any delay would prejudice the Council's or the public's interests), the following Urgency Action procedures will be adopted by Neath Port Talbot Council in respect of 'Planning Committee' decisions until further notice.

1. Where an application or matter is required to be brought before the Planning Committee for determination (in accordance with the Council's delegated arrangements), and Officers are satisfied that a delay would either prejudice the Council's interest or a determination is in the public interest, a decision will proceed using the Council's Urgency Action / Delegated Powers;
2. Decisions on all such matters will be delegated to the Director of Environment and Regeneration or Head of Planning and Public Protection subject to the matter first being considered and a formal resolution made by the Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning Committee (or in their absence two members of the Planning Committee);
3. Any items brought forward under Urgency Action powers will not progress to consideration by the Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning Committee (or in their absence two members of the Planning Committee) until such time as the following actions have been undertaken: -
 - a. A 'Committee' report has been prepared by the Head of Planning & Public Protection;
 - b. The report has been published on the Council's website under Planning Committee Agendas (such page to advise of this urgency action procedure, including the opportunity to make written representations by 12pm on the Friday before the 'committee date') no less than three working days before the 'Committee date'
 - c. Ward Members and all Members of the Planning Committee have been provided with a copy of the report, with a request that any representations they wish to make (including questions) should be provided to the Development Manager – Planning or such person nominated by him by no later than 12pm on the day before the 'Committee date'.
 - d. The Applicant / agent, objectors etc. have an opportunity to submit further representations by 12pm on the Friday before committee.
4. When reporting the matter to Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning Committee (or in their absence two members of the Planning Committee) the 'Urgency Action' form and report will be accompanied by an addendum report detailing the nature of any representations or questions received following the above procedure, along with any relevant officer responses.
5. 'Planning Committee' decisions under Urgency Action powers will progress on the Council's usual '3 weekly' cycle, and on the dates when Planning Committee would otherwise have sat (unless a decision is deemed essential and would have been progressed at a Special Committee)

26/3/2020