

ST ALBANS CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION REGISTER

Portfolio(s) decision relates to:	Planning and Conservation (1) Community engagement and support (2)	Name of Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Brazier (1) Cllr Oxley (2)
Name of decision maker:	Daniel Goodwin Chief Executive	Signature of decision maker:	
Name of relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	Overview & Scrutiny (Internal) Committee	Date of decision:	23 December 2010

Type of decision <i>(please tick)</i>	Key		Significant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Virement		Other	
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Scheme of delegation reference under which decision is taken:	<p>Council Procedure Rules- Rule 5: Time and place of meetings and Rule 25: Application of the Council Procedure Rules to Committees</p> <p><i>The time and place of meetings will be determined by the Chief Executive and notified in the summons.</i></p>
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Has this decision drawn upon confidential information? <i>(If yes – please set out what confidential information has been taken into account on a separate sheet)</i>	No
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DECISION *(Note this should be written in the style of a committee minute and should not include confidential information):*

To relocate meetings of the Planning (Development Control) Committee North to the Council Offices from Harpenden bearing in mind consultation with interested parties and the recommendations of Cabinet of 7th December 2010, with effect from 24 January 2011 with the proviso that this should be for a trial period pending the following:

- Consultation on and a review of Planning Committees to establish their future number, frequency and location
- A review of how Town/Parish Councils' roles in the development management process could be enhanced, in anticipation of the provisions of the Localism Bill.
- Inclusion of recommendations in the report to Annual Council on the number, remit and make-up of committees bearing in mind the above

To give absolute priority to Planning (Development Control) Committees for the use of the Council Chamber on Monday evenings to enable guaranteed webcasting.

In arriving at my decision I have properly and thoroughly taken into account the legal, financial and workforce implications for the Council. My decision is within the Council's policy and budget framework and complies with the regulations and procedures set out in the Constitution. I have explicitly considered the Council's corporate objectives in arriving at my decision. In coming to my decision I have consulted with all relevant parties as appropriate and in accordance with the scheme of delegation.

REASON/S FOR THE DECISION

The basis for this decision is that there is a clear case to be made to relocate Planning (Development Control) Committee North to allow webcasting/recording as set out in the report to Cabinet of 7th December 2010 (Report and minutes attached). This should be tested for a trial period.

Comments made at the meeting and during the consultation process suggest that there may be a case for reducing the number of planning committees, potentially to one committee. This needs further testing.

Other comments, relating to the need for the planning system to reflect localist principles, together with the implications of the Localism Bill, suggest that it would be sensible to reconsider the role of Town/Parish Councils in the process, in line with overall public value principles.

Council should be given the opportunity to review and set the future framework in the light of the above reviews and evidence.

Concerns must be addressed that Planning (Development Control) Committee North (or any other routinely webcast Committee) might be relocated within the Civic Offices on occasion, thereby making webcasting unlikely.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:	REASONS FOR REJECTING THESE OPTIONS
1. To retain the current arrangements	Inability to provide webcasting facilities economically at the current venue and other logistical concerns as set out in the Cabinet Report of 7 th December 2010
2. To relocate to another venue in Harpenden	Inability to provide webcasting facilities economically at another venue and other logistical concerns as set out in the Cabinet Report of 7 th December 2010
3. To implement a permanent change	The need to address other questions on the number of committees and localism implications as set out above.

CONSULTEES

In making this decision, I have consulted the following people:

See contents of Cabinet Report 7th December 2010. I have additionally consulted with the following on the nuances of this decision.

Name and Signature	Position	Date of consultation	Outcome of consultation (may cross reference to supplementary/background sheets)
Cllr John Chambers	Chair of Committee	22/12/10	Understood the basis of the decision, whilst not agreeing with it.
Cllr Chris Brazier	Portfolio Holder for Planning	17/12/10	Agreed with decision
Cllr Robert Donald	Leader	20/12/10	Agreed with decision

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985

Bibliography	Custodian	File location