

## Appendix two

### Parish letter feedback

A letter was sent to all 68 town and parish councils to advise of the proposed changes to the planning scheme of delegation, to be considered at the Council meeting on 20 July 2016.

14 council representatives responded to the letter; feedback about the proposals can be categorised to follow the main proposal points within the letter:

1. Training to be offered in planning matters.

Over half of the parish councils solely addressed training in their responses to the letter. The timing of the training was an issue highlighted by a few parishes as availability in the summer holidays is low. However, due to the timing of the Council when the proposals are being considered, the intention for training for parishes to follow as soon as possible thereafter was paramount to ensure preparedness for the changes coming into force on 1 August. This does not preclude further training taking part later in the year should there be a demand.

2. Enhanced dialogue between planning and parish councils.

Feedback concerning enhanced dialogue fell into the following categories:

- A welcome approach.
- Cynicism about whether this would actually happen.
- Clarification needed on the timing of involvement – initiated by who and at what stage of the planning process.

3. Major applications can be referred to committee should the views of the parish council be contrary to the officer's recommendation when issues cannot be resolved by condition or negotiation.

No feedback.

4. Minor applications can no longer be called in to committee directly by parish councils, but through the ward member, ensuring there are adequate material considerations.

Two parish councils disagreed with this proposal:

*"This is a blanket demarcation and does not reflect the impact of smaller applications on small communities."*

*"A one size fits all approach is not appropriate. 9 or 10 units on a site in a small village creates a very different overall impact from the same number of units being erected in a large town and urban environment."*

5. Support from the planning department in developing neighbourhood plans.

Positive feedback.

6. Enhanced public participation at committee, whereby committee members can ask registered speakers' questions of clarification.

Overall, this proposal was welcomed positively.