

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT “CALL IN”****DIRECTIONS CONSULTATION****Report By: Head of Legal and Democratic Services****Wards Affected**

All

**Purpose**

To inform members of the current consultation issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government with regard to the call in procedures in relation to planning applications.

**Financial Implications**

The implications of the consultation have not cost implication. However if the proposals set out in the consultation are progressed as part of Government Policy this may have a financial implication on both planning officer's and legal officer's time as in effect call ins will be reduced and local authorities will be expected to deal with additional matters in addition to their present workload.

**Background**

The Department for Communities and Local Government issued a consultation paper in December 2007 regarding the call in directions for matters to be considered by the Secretary of State. The government's view is that the Secretary State's call in process is in effect delaying the process of dealing with planning applications and therefore his intention is to ensure that as many applications are dealt with at a local level by the local authorities concerned.

The consultation paper is attached for consideration by committee members.

**Recommendations****THAT**

- (a) the committee's observations on the consultation be noted and reported to the Department for Communities and Local Government**
- (b) an update report to be made available to the committee following the publication of the final guidance by the Communities and Local Government Department.**

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Consultation document entitled “Communities and Local Government the “Call In” directions consultation.

## Background Papers

None identified