

**Planning Committee(s)
Proposed Scheme of Delegation**

The response proposed to the Audit Commission accepts its recommendation to review the planning delegation scheme. Its report comments that the current delegation agreement includes a long list of what is delegated, whereas good practice guidance issued by Government and the LGA recommends that a 'by exception' approach is adopted.

On this basis the following approach is recommended.

All planning applications (and other associated applications for development activity) are delegated to the Head of Planning and Transportation and/or nominated officers within the Service with the exception of the following applications/circumstances:

- 1. Applications called-in for Committee determination by Council Members (see Practice Note No 2).**
- 2. Applications for development submitted by the Council or by others on Council land.**
- 3. Applications submitted by Council Members.**
- 4. Applications submitted by officers in politically-restricted posts and/or by officers employed in the Planning and Transportation Service.**
- 5. Applications which in the view of the Head of Planning and Transportation raise issues around the consistency of the proposal, if approved, to the adopted development plan.**
- 6. Applications which in the view of the Head of Planning and Transportation raise issues of a significant and/or strategic nature that a Committee determination would represent the most appropriate course of action.**

Underlying this proposed scheme of delegation contact and liaison between case officers and members would be improved significantly. This would ensure that Members had appropriate and timely information to make a judgement about whether or not to call-in the application for Committee determination. This contact should also improve member's confidence in the delivery of the revised delegation arrangements.