

Participating in the Planning Process



Where is information on planning applications available?

Details of applications and copies of the documents can be found on the Planning pages of our website www.cheshireeast.gov.uk. Access to information on planning applications is via the *I want to find...* section at the top of our Home Page or via the *Environment and Planning* link on the left. You can access this information at any office of the Council which has internet viewing facilities for the public. Our user-friendly search facilities allow you to search for applications by reference number, location, registered and decision date, ward, parish, street and type of application.

How can I comment on an application?

Comments on applications must be submitted using the online form accessed via the link *Commenting on Planning Applications* or via the *Available Actions* tab within the application.

What sort of comments can I make?

Your comments should always relate to planning matters e.g. size, design, appearance, impact on privacy, highway safety and should not relate to non-planning matters such as boundary disputes, property rights etc. For guidance and examples, see *Commenting on Planning Applications*.

What happens to my comments?

Your comments will be made available on our website so anyone can read them. When we receive them they will be passed to the case officer who will consider them carefully. **Note: it may take a few days for them to appear on the website.** If the applicant appeals against their decision, your comments will also be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate who considers all planning appeals.

Who makes the decision on the planning application?

Over 90% of the applications are determined under delegated powers by a Senior Officer. The remainder get referred to one of our 3 Planning Committees: Northern Planning, Southern Planning and Strategic Planning Board. Each of these normally convenes once every 3 weeks. On occasion, an application originally identified as being determined under delegated powers, may be 'called-in' to Committee by the local Councillor.

When and where do the Committee Meetings take place?

Information on Committee dates, times and locations are available via the *Planning Application Advice/Planning Committees* pages of our website.

Can I speak at a Committee Meeting?

Interested parties are able to request to speak at Committee. When the application is showing on a Committee agenda, you can submit a written request to Democratic Services by no later than Noon on the day preceding the Committee meeting. For full details of the Committee Public Speaking process and protocol, please access the 'Public Speaking at Committee' guidance on the *Planning Application Advice/Planning Committees* pages of our website.

How do I find out what the decision is for an application?

Information relating to the decision on an application is available on the Planning pages of our website. Access is via the *I want to find...* section at the top of our Home Page or via the *Environment and Planning* link on the left.

Who can appeal against a Planning Decision?

Only the applicant can appeal against a refused application or against any of the conditions attached to an approved one. Information on the status of past and present appeals is available via the Appeals pages of the Government website www.planningportal.gov.uk and also on the Planning pages of the Cheshire East website.

What if I don't have access to the Internet?

If you don't have access to the internet, you can contact the Planning Customer Service Centre on **0300 123 5014** who will be able to offer further advice.