

Area Committees and Planning Observations

Consideration and decision making in relation to Planning Applications is an Executive Function. The DOECLG, in their response to the independent Planning Review of the Performance of Planning Functions advised Planning Authorities that 'in the presentation of any undecided planning applications to either the elected members or members of the public, where it may not currently be the case, officials should advise that any observations or recommendations cannot be taken into account in the determination of the planning application unless formally submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Regulations'.

In the case where Members wish their objections to be noted the minutes of the Area Committee meeting should read:

Order: Noted. Councillors requested to have their objections to this planning application recorded and were advised that any observations or recommendations cannot be taken into account in the determination of the planning application unless formally submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Regulations.

In the case where Members wish their support to be noted the minutes of the Area Committee should read:

Order: Noted. Councillors requested to have their support to this planning application recorded and were advised that any observations or recommendations cannot be taken into account in the determination of the planning application unless formally submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Regulations.

This is distinct from the procedure for presentations made on Strategic Housing Development applications. In this instance a summary of comments by Councillors is included in the Chief Executive's Report to An Bórd Pleanála. It should be noted that Councillors (when acting in their capacity as such) may make submissions on planning applications without the requirement to pay the standard fee. The e-mail observations@dublincity.ie is specifically dedicated for this purpose. An acknowledgement letter will issue to the Councillor which is the proof required by An Bord Pleanála should the Councillor wish to appeal the decision.