

Discussion Note:

Unreasonable Behaviour at Appeals and Cost Awards

1. **Councillor/Officer liaison after Planning Sub-Committee:-**

Greater level of liaison for the purpose of ensuring that Councillor views and knowledge are better represented in the appeal process.

2. **Before Planning Sub-Committee:-**

Post Agenda Publication, encourage greater dialogue between Councillors and officers where Councillors do not favour a recommendation. This is so as to provide officer advice on the strength of a possible reason for refusal.

3. **Fast – track appeals after over turn of recommendation:-**

At present we have little time to prepare any account of why the decision was made, we should look at possible mechanisms for giving time for this.

For example, the Committee can delegate to officers the issuing of the final decision whilst making its view clear e.g., 'minded to refuse on the following grounds'.

4. **At the time of voting – grounds for motion:-**

We should ensure that the reasons for the motion are made clear before the vote is taken, so that their strength can be taken into account when the vote is taken and can be made clear at appeal.

5. **Councillor Seminars – Training:-**

Set up a seminar/training session for Members of Committee on awards of costs at appeal, in particular the 'unreasonable' costs of appeals.