




## RECORD OF OFFICER DELEGATED DECISIONS

TITLE:	Public Speaking Policy at Planning Committee		
DECISION:	To approve the recently reviewed Public Speaking Scheme for the Planning Committee.		
DECISION MADE BY:	Assistant Director – Planning & Strategic Infrastructure		
DATE DECISION MADE:	2 January 2025		
REASON FOR DECISION:	<p>The Government, through its Planning Reforms, is looking at the way Planning Committee’s operate nationally.</p> <p>In this context, and given the period of time that has elapsed since it was last reviewed, the Planning Committee Chairman, Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Assistant Director for Planning have reviewed the Public Speaking Scheme for the Planning Committee. This review included input from Democratic Services and Legal Services.</p> <p>The guiding principle in making the alterations (please see attached updated scheme) is to ensure that the decisions taken by the Committee are robust and defensible, with risk of challenge minimised.</p> <p>Alterations are made to reduce the time available to speakers to ensure that the points that are made are clear, concise and material to the case.</p> <p>Alterations to the questions to speakers is not fundamental, more reiterating and clarifying the existing position. It is key that questions to the public speakers are for clarification on the points made, rather than debate or cross-examination.</p>		
DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:	Not to amend the scheme.		
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION:	None		
AUTHORITY FOR DECISION:	Authority delegated to the Assistant Director – Planning & Strategic Infrastructure in liaison with the Planning Committee Chairman and the Portfolio Holder for Planning.		
CONSULTATION WITH PORTFOLIO HOLDER REQUIRED:	Yes	PORTFOLIO HOLDER SIGNATURE: (If consulted)	Councillor John Baxter
SUPPORTING PAPERS:	Part 5 (Ei) of the Council’s Constitution - Public Speaking Policy at Planning Committee		

OFFICER/COUNCILLOR INTERESTS DECLARED:	None	
CONTACT PERSON:	Phil Norman	Email: pnorman@sholland.gov.uk
SIGNATURE		Date: 2 January 2025

Notes: When the decision has been made the relevant officer should complete the report within 14 days and send it to Democratic Services for publication on the Council's website in accordance with the Openness of Local Government Regulations 2014.