Item 3

8th September 2022

Glasgow City Council

Report by Councillor Greg Hepburn, Council Business Manager and Convener for Open Government

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REVIEW OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FRAMEWORK – PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATED FUNCTIONS

Purpose of Report:

To submit for approval proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegated Functions in relation to planning matters.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Council approves the proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegated Functions as detailed in this report.

Ward No(s):	Citywide: ✓
Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐	consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

***PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING**:*

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1 Background

1.1 Over the last year a cross party elected member working group has been reviewing the operational and governance arrangements in place for the Planning Applications Committee (PAC) and the Planning Local Review Committee (PLRC), highlighting areas where it is considered that improvements could be made.

1.2 Detailed analysis of the statutory requirements and the current arrangements in Glasgow has been undertaken, covering the planning provisions of the Council's Scheme of Delegated Functions, the Committee Terms of Reference, the composition of the PAC and PLRC, the procedural rules for hearings, the format of meetings, the provision of officer support at meetings, the content of reports and the provision of training for elected members.

1.3 Reports setting out a number of recommended changes to the operational arrangements for the PLRC were previously considered by the elected member working group and the Business Bureau. These operational changes were agreed and have been implemented.

1.4 Changes to the membership and constitution of the PLRC, together with amendments to the Committee Terms of Reference, were agreed by Council at its meeting on 28 October 2021.

1.5 Following further meetings with the elected member working group, a number of changes to the operational arrangements for the PAC were agreed and are in the course of being implemented. These operational changes cover a range of issues including additional training and guidance for members of the PAC, enhanced links between the PAC and the planning policy development process and enhanced reporting on applications dealt with under delegated powers.

2 Proposed Changes to the Scheme of Delegated Functions

2.1 In reviewing the Scheme of Delegated Functions for planning related matters, the elected member working group was keen to ensure that there continues to be an appropriate balance between having an efficient process that allows for the vast majority of non-contentious planning applications to be dealt with on a delegated basis while at the same time allowing for the accountability and democratic oversight that is achieved through referring certain applications to committee.

2.2 In order to strike that balance, the following proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegated Functions were supported by the elected member working group:-

Existing Delegation	**Suggested Amendment**	**Reason**
43 (a) (ii) Exclusion to delegated authority to grant	That the number of material objections	Given that there are currently seven wards in

applications where there are material objections from one or more Councillors to a national or major application or from **three or more** Councillors to any other type of application.	needed from Councillors in order to exclude delegated authority to grant applications, other than national or major applications, is reduced from **three or more** to **two or more.**	the city which are comprised of only three members, it is considered more proportionate for the number of material objections from Councillors needed to exclude delegated authority to be reduced from three to two in relation to local development. No change is proposed in relation to national or major developments where only one Councillor material objection is needed in order to exclude delegated authority to grant the application.
Insert new provision after 43 (a) (ii)	That delegated authority to grant any application is excluded where there is an unresolved objection from one or more of the statutory consultees.	This will allow Committee to explore unresolved objections to applications from any of the statutory consultees, for example SEPA or Transport Scotland.
43 (b) (ii) Exclusion to delegated authority to refuse applications where there are material representations of support for the proposals from one or more Councillors to a national or major application or from **three or more** Councillors to any other type of application	That the number of material representations of support for the proposals needed from Councillors in order to exclude delegated authority to refuse applications, other than national or major applications, is reduced from **three or more** to **two or more.**	As 43 (a) (ii) above, the reduction from three Councillors to two Councillors making material representations in support of proposals for local development is considered to be more proportionate in view of the number of three member wards in the city. No change is proposed in relation to national or major developments where only one Councillor material representation in support is needed in order to exclude delegated authority to refuse the application.

Insert new provision at 43 (b) (ii)	An addition is made to the existing exclusions from delegation to refuse applications, other than national or major applications, where there is a material representation in support from the local community council.	Where a local community council has provided a material representation in support of a local development, an application should not be refused under delegated authority in order to allow the Committee an opportunity to examine the basis on which support for the application has been provided.

2.3 The proposed amendments to the terms of the Scheme of Delegated Functions in relation to the functions exercisable by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability are set out in the Appendix to this report.

3 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	N/A
Legal:	N/A
Personnel:	N/A
Procurement:	N/A

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.	N/A
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	N/A

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	N/A
What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	N/A
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	N/A

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:	N/A

3 Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Council approves the proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegated Functions as detailed in this report.