

SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

To: **Extraordinary Council – 9 October 2008**

By: **Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary: **This report invites Members to suspend Council Procedure Rules in order to allow public speaking at this Extraordinary Meeting of Council**

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Planning Committee, at the meeting held on 20 August 2008, agreed to refer Planning application F/TH/08/0400 - Land at Manston Business Park, Manston Road, Manston, Ramsgate to full Council for decision.
- 1.2 This Extraordinary Meeting of Council was arranged to deal specifically with the referred planning application.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 The Protocol for Planning Committee does allow public speaking for scheduled applications. As this application is a major application the number of speakers raising points of concern is three, with one speaker for the applicant (or agent).
- 2.3 Council Procedure Rules do not allow public speaking at meetings of Full Council.
- 2.4 To allow all Members to hear the representations of objectors and applicant the Council Procedure Rules would need to be suspended in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 29.1.

3.0 Options

- 3.1 To suspend Council Procedure Rules and adopt the Protocol for Planning Committee for the duration of this Extraordinary Meeting of Council to allow public speaking to take place.
- 3.2 Members may decide not to suspend Council Procedure Rules which will prevent public speaking from taking place.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial

- 4.1.1 None

4.2 Legal

4.2.1 Because the Council's Constitution provides no general right for members of the public to address a Council meeting, it would be necessary for Council Procedure Rules to be suspended in order for public speaking to take place at a meeting of Council.

4.3 Corporate

None

4.4 Equity and Equalities

None

5.0 Recommendation(s)

5.1 Members are invited to consider whether to adopt option 3.1 or option 3.2

6.0 Decision Making Process

6.1 The decision is for full Council.

Contact Officer:	Eileen Richford, Senior Democratic Services Officer
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
The Constitution for the Governance of Thanet District Council	Thanet District Council Website or from Democratic Services Team