

## REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE

Report No. 17

Date of Meeting	7 <sup>th</sup> June 2007
Title of Report	Appointment to the Spatial Planning Advisory Group
Portfolio	Built Environment
Link to Corporate Priorities	Spatial Planning
Key Decision	No
Executive Workplan Ref	N/A
Public Report	Yes

### Summary of Report

The purpose of the Report is to propose changes to the protocols for the appointment of Councillors to be representatives on the Spatial Planning Advisory Group.

### Officer Recommendations

**It is recommended that a combination of Options 2 and 4 be accepted such that the respective Chairs of the Area Committee be empowered to appoint one representative of each Area Committee to the Advisory Group. This would be in addition to the appointment of a Member from the Development Control Committee and also the Built Environment Lead Member.**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
None	None	Yes	None	None

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Council needs to reappoint Councillors to the Spatial Planning Advisory Steering Group following the start of the new municipal year.

## **2. Options and Options Appraisal**

- 2.1 **Option 1:** To retain the protocols for appointments to the Group as existing. The advantage to this option will be that it is administratively simple to follow the protocol. The significant disadvantage is that this will mean taking a report to each Area Committee for appointments to be confirmed and this will take some months to complete. In the meantime, there is spatial planning work that SPAG should be made aware of now.
- 2.2 **Option 2:** To amend the protocol to allow the appointed Chair of each Area Committee to be approached and to ask them for nominations for one representative to attend the Group.
- 2.3 **Option 3:** To amend the protocol to allow the Executive to appoint the Group at the Executive meeting.
- 2.4 **Option 4:** A variation of the above would be to amend the protocol to reduce the number of Members to be appointed to SPAG and then follow any of the above options.

## **3. Background Information**

- 3.1 The Spatial Planning Advisory Group consists of a group of Members of the Council, a Member of the Wiltshire County Council and up to five representatives of outside bodies to consider Spatial Planning Issues of the day. The Group also advises the Authorised Officer (presently the Spatial Planning Team Leader) on the operation of the powers that have Delegated to that post by the Executive concerning the production of the Local Development Framework.
- 3.2 There are a number of pressing matters that required the attention of SPAG in the near future. It is considered that the current protocol for appointing Members too this Group are cumbersome and would delay the meeting of the Group until late July in order that a full cycle of Area Committees have been held. It is proposed that the appointment process is simplified.
- 3.3 It is suggested that the protocol should allow for the Chair of each Area Committee to be approached to appoint the required membership.
- 3.4 It is also considered that it is unnecessary to insist that a full complement of 10 Members from the Area Committees be appointed and has made the administration of the Group more complex than necessary. It is considered that five such Members plus one form the Development Control Committee and the Lead Member are sufficient to conduct the business.

## **4. Community and Environmental Implications**

- 4.1 The arrangements will directly influence the ability of this Council to respond to the community in the District on planning matters and for the continued involvement of

the community themselves on influencing the direction of spatial planning within North Wiltshire.

## 5. Risk Analysis

There are no risks directly associated with the Officer's recommendations.

<b>Appendices:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>None</b></li></ul>
<b>Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>None</b></li></ul>

### Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

<b>Report</b>	<b>Committee &amp; Date</b>	<b>Minute Reference</b>
<b>None</b>		