

## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE - 28 NOVEMBER 1996

## GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

REPORT BY THE DIRECTORS OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION AND  
PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of the Report is to present guidance to members in connection with planning applications.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (i) To adopt the attached Good Practice Guidelines as formal guidance for members of the Development Control Committee and the Council in dealing with planning applications.
- (ii) To issue the attached Good Practice Guidelines to agents, planning consultants etc.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

In determining planning applications, members of the Development Control Committee require to exercise considerable care to prove to members of the public that they are acting reasonably and fairly. It is therefore considered appropriate that some form of guidance be issued to members of the Committee in particular, but also to other members of the Council who, if an application is referred from the Committee to the full Council, will be dealing with applications for planning approval in respect of developments which may be of significant commercial interest and where the Council is required to be particularly careful in order to avoid any suggestion of improper behaviour.

It is therefore suggested that members adopt a voluntary Code of Practice which although not enforceable would, it is suggested, avoid possible future difficulty with disappointed applicants or objectors.

**3. CONCLUSION**

It is therefore recommended that the Committee adopt the attached Good Practice Guidelines and exercise the guidance voluntarily to ensure openness and fairness in all applications dealt with by the Development Control Committee and the Council.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this Report.

**5. CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive and Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

CATHERINE A COULL  
Director of Law and Administration

**NOTE:** No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing this Report.

# ANGUS COUNCIL

## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

### GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

For use by members of the Committee and Council when dealing with Development Control matters.

1. Refer enquiries to officers of the Planning Department.
2. Refrain from becoming involved in discussions with developers or potential applicants at the pre-application stage.
3. Listen to constituents who come to a surgery with a legitimate matter of concern, but avoid expressing an opinion.
4. If arranging a meeting with an applicant, developer or agent, be accompanied by a Planning Officer.
5. Avoid giving any impression of a commitment when faced with lobbying.
6. Always be totally open at the Committee or Council meeting, i.e. disclose any approach from the applicant or by several members of the public.
7. Declare any personal involvement with the applicant, agent or interested party in accordance with the National Code of Conduct.