

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILLOCAL REVIEW BODY10 August 2016Report by Deputy Chief ExecutiveSITE INSPECTIONS**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The report seeks approval for the Local Review Body to carry out unaccompanied site inspections for each review case it receives prior to the review case(s) being considered at a meeting of the Local Review Body. The report also seeks homologation of the action taken by officers in arranging site inspections for the review cases considered at the meetings of the Local Review Body on 8 June and 10 August 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Local Review Body is asked to:
- (a) approve the proposal to carry out unaccompanied site inspections for each review case it receives prior to the review case(s) being considered at a meeting of the Local Review Body; and
 - (b) homologate the action taken by officers in arranging site inspections for the review cases considered at the meetings of the Local Review Body on 8 June and 10 August 2016.

SITE INSPECTIONS

3. At the meeting of the Local Review Body on 4 November 2015, it was agreed amongst other things that the Local Review Body would carry out unaccompanied site inspections for a trial period of 6 months for every review case it received prior to the cases being given initial consideration at a meeting of the Local Review Body.

4. Since that date, a total of 12 unaccompanied site inspections have been arranged prior to the meetings of the Local Review Body and these arrangements have proved to be successful.

5. Members will be aware that by visiting the site(s) immediately prior to a meeting of the Local Review Body, it gives them a better understanding of the development proposal under consideration and they also have the opportunity to view the physical environment of the site(s) and the surrounding area.

6. Furthermore, the review cases are processed more efficiently as there is no need to submit a case to a meeting of the Local Review Body for a decision to be made to continue consideration of the case to a subsequent meeting to allow arrangements to be made for a site inspection.

7. In view of the foregoing, it is proposed that the Local Review Body continue to carry out unaccompanied site inspections for each review case it receives prior to the review case(s) being considered at a meeting of the Local Review Body.

8. Subject to the agreement of the Local Review Body, it is further proposed that the site inspections continue to take place on the morning of the meeting at which the case(s) is/are to be considered.

9. Members are reminded that failure to attend the site inspections will preclude them from taking part in the consideration of the review case(s) at the meeting of the Local Review Body.

HOMOLOGATION

10. The 6 month trial period agreed at the meeting of the Local Review Body on 4 November 2015 for the Local Review Body to carry out unaccompanied site inspections expired in May 2016.

11. Members will be aware that due to the preparations for the European Union Referendum on 23 June 2016, there was no meeting of the Local Review Body held in May. As a result, officers made arrangements for the Local Review Body to carry out site inspections for the review cases considered at the meetings of the Local Review Body on 8 June and 10 August 2016.

12. The Local Review Body is therefore asked to homologate the action taken by officers in arranging the site inspections for the above meetings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

13. The Local Review Body is asked to:

- (a) approve the proposal to carry out unaccompanied site inspections for each review case it receives prior to the review case(s) being considered at a meeting of the Local Review Body; and
- (b) homologate the action taken by officers in arranging site inspections for the review cases considered at the meetings of the Local Review Body on 8 June and 10 August 2016.

Report Author: Paul O'Neil, Committee Services Officer

Director - Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive

Paul O'Neil, Committee Services Officer
e-mail: paul.o'neil@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk
Tel: 0141 577 3011

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Report by Deputy Chief Executive entitled 'Site Inspections' submitted to the meeting of Local Review Body on 4 November 2015.