

Planning Policy Scrutiny Committee



Date	13 September 2007
Venue	Town Hall, Lytham St Annes
Committee members	Councillor John Bennett (Chairman) Councillor William Thompson (Vice-Chairman) Ben Aitken, Keith Beckett, John Davies (substitute), George Caldwell, Trevor Fiddler, Kevin Eastham (substitute)
Other Councillors	Councillor Karen Buckley (Borough Ward Councillor), County Councillor Colin Walton (County Council Ward Councillor)
Officers	Tony Donnelly, Paul Walker, Ian Curtis, Tracy Scholes
Public	Fifteen members of the public were in attendance

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Planning Policy Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 29 August 2007 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Substitute members

Councillor John Davies acted as substitute for Councillor Lyndsay Greening and Councillor Kevin Eastham acted as substitute for Councillor Maxine Chew.

4. Blackpool International Airport Master Plan

Tony Donnelly, Head of Planning (Policy) introduced a report on the Blackpool International Airport Master Plan. The finalised Master Plan for Blackpool International Airport had been published by the Airport Company.

The report of Mr. Donnelly commented on the main proposals contained in the published Master Plan and sought the recommendation of members on whether an Article 4 Direction should be pursued which, if approved by the Secretary of State, would take away some of the Airports permitted development rights. Mr. Donnelly confirmed that any Article 4 direction application would be limited to developments of a Class A nature, this being development carried out on operational land by the airport operator or its agent (including the erection or alteration of an operational building) in connection with the provision of services and facilities at the airport.

In its deliberations on this matter, the Committee gave its approval for County Councillor Colin Walton to address it. County Councillor Walton spoke in support of an application for an Article 4 direction. Councillor Karen Buckley, Ward councillor, also spoke in support of an application for an Article 4 direction. Both were concerned about the close proximity of residential properties to the airport curtilage.

A detailed debate took place amongst members as to the merits or otherwise of pursuing this matter. Ian Curtis, the Council's Head of Legal Services, provided advice that if an application for an Article 4 direction was successful and conditions were imposed on a subsequent planning application for the airport, the council may be required to compensate the airport operator for the cost of complying with the conditions and loss of profit. Members felt that a further legal opinion from a specialist legal advisor on planning issues was required.

The Chairman clarified that the Committee were making recommendations only on this issue for the Portfolio Holder for Development and Regeneration to consider, as a scrutiny committee had advisory powers only.

After a full discussion the Committee RESOLVED:

1. To note the content of the finalised Master Plan.
2. That the Portfolio Holder for Development and Regeneration be recommended to pursue an Article 4 Direction subject to specialist legal advice being sought on the implications
3. That subject to (2) above the Executive Manager (Strategic Planning and Development) in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and the Portfolio Holder be granted delegated powers to determine the scope and extent of the direction.
