

[REDACTED]

From: Denise Dickson
Sent: 31 March 2020 10:48
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Chief Planner's Update No 5 & Urgent Information Request focusing on COVID-19 issues

Angus

response from CC&G as follows:

1. Council's Planning Office is closed to both the general public and staff as planning is not identified as an essential service of Council at this time. Staff are working from home on existing applications and answering emails and telephone queries. 4 staff have VPN access to the Planning Portal remotely.
2. New applications are being received by post. Those applications received post Tuesday 24 March are not being validated as staff do not have access to the office to retrieve these applications nor access the scanner to upload onto the Planning Portal. Given the Government instruction site visits are not taking place. Staff are discussing applications with their line manager via teleconferencing and planning reports prepared as complete as possible subject to further representations/amendments received by post that cannot be accessed at this time. Decision notices cannot issue as to access the scanner and hard copy representations/ further information sent by post and retained in the office would go against Government instruction. As far as possible, staff are using Google maps to view sites at this time to assist writing assessments of applications. Consultations are taking place on live applications but this has restrictions in terms of reconsultation on hard copy amended plans that cannot be uploaded onto the Planning Portal.
3. As stated above, as Planning is not an essential service, to access the office would go against Government instruction at this time. Correspondence/Information received electronically is being actioned and responded to as necessary by staff working from home.
4. As stated above, current application in the system are continuing to be processed remotely insofar as possible subject to consideration of further correspondence received by hard copy retained in the office.
5. Planning Committee meetings have been suspended at this time as to continue would go against Government instruction. It is not considered that the Planning Committee meeting is essential business under the new Covid Act.
6. Key issues are as follows:
 - Emergency Development by the Crown. Amend Part 31 of the Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 to omit the words on Crown Land to read 'Development on or behalf of the Crown for the purposes of-' This would allow emergency works to be carried out as necessary without the requirement for change of use of buildings etc to hospitals/mortuaries
 - Enforcement: Amend Part 5 Section 132(1) to amend the period of taking enforcement action from 5 to 6 years. This will resolve the issue of issuing enforcement notices on cases approaching immunity at this time when there is a difficulty in serving notices and also the difficulty in complying with the notice/ employing experts to appeal the notice.

- EIA development: Regulation 8 of The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 imposes 4 weeks deadline from receipt of the application and an absolute time limit of 90 days for a determination where this has been agreed in writing. Remove the deadlines as there may be applications received by post that staff do not have access to/aware of as they are located within Council offices. Furthermore, those that require input from consultees will be delayed due to restriction on accessing scanner to upload applications onto the Planning Portal.
- EIA development: Regulation 15(3) of The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 imposes a 4 week deadline from date of receipt of application to notify the applicant in accordance with Reg 15(1). Remove this deadline for the same reason as above.
- Performance Indicators: Article 2 of The Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 provides the planning standards (processing targets) for Councils. Repeal this legislation for the 2020-21 business year. During this period Planning Departments are unable to process planning applications within ordinary operational constraints.

Regards

Denise

Denise Dickson
Head of Planning

From: Maroadi, Julie on behalf of Kerr, Angus

Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 6:03 PM

To: Ann McCullough (ann.mccullough@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk); anthony.mckay@nmandd.org; Chris Boomer (chris.boomer@midulstercouncil.org); conor.hughes@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk; Damian Mulligan (Planning Manager) (damien.mulligan@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk); Deirdre McSorley (deirdre.mcsorley@fermanaghomagh.com); Denise Dickson; Ed Baker (bakere@belfastcity.gov.uk); John Linden (Planning Manager) (john.linden@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk); Keith Sutherland (sutherlandk@belfastcity.gov.uk); maura.fox@derrystرابane.com; paul.duffy@midandeantrim.gov.uk

Cc: Alison McCullagh; anne.donaghy@midandeantrim.gov.uk; Anthony Tohill; David Burns ; David Jackson; Jacqui Dixon; John Kelpie; Marie Ward (marie.ward@nmandd.org); roger wilson; Stephen Reid; Suzanne Wylie

Subject: Chief Planner's Update No 5 & Urgent Information Request focusing on COVID-19 issues

Please see attached Letters from Angus Kerr, Chief Planner & Director of Regional Planning, DfI for your immediate attention:-

1. Chief Planner's Update No 5; and
2. Urgent Information Request – please note deadline is **cop Mon 31 March**.

Kind Regards

Julie



Julie Maroadi - Personal Secretary for Angus Kerr, Chief Planner & Director of Regional Planning | Department for Infrastructure | Rm 1.01 | Clarence Court | 10-18 Adelaide Street | BELFAST BT2 8GB

☎ 0300 200 7830 | ✉ julie.maroadi@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

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