

**ITEM 1.5: NEW COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**

**ALTERNATE MOTION BY COUNCILLOR ATTWELL**

**DATE & TIME RECEIVED: 11.47AM ON WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2011**

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**THAT the Terms of Reference for the Planning and Development Committee be amended as follows:**

- 1. Delete “*This Committee is open to the public and members of the public can address the Committee on matters listed in the agenda.*”**
- 2. Delete “*Maximum of (insert number) members of the community (who would not regularly have conflicts of interest with the Committees business under consideration) are invited to contribute as a member to the Committee deliberations.*”**

**Councillor’s Reason:**

This proposed Committee is one making Statutory recommendations/decisions as the authorised representatives of the community. It is one whereby we come under the most scrutiny and controversy. This is often due to misunderstanding by Councillors and members of the public on the issues involved and indeed the multiple regulations we come under.

We need to be aware that if we include members of the public on this committee there is a possibility, that with three to four being community members, the situation could arise whereby the recommendation of the committee could have been carried by community members. We are a ‘new’ Council at the moment and are looking to put in place Committees to assist with better decision making and outcomes. We will be better equipped to bring this about if Councillors can work together in an informal atmosphere, where they are free to ask questions without public observance and formal procedure.

The Committee will not have delegated authority, so we are not obliged to open to the public. Committee recommendations are just that and if required can be questioned or changed at full Council meetings. The public will have the opportunity in the Open Forum to make comments or ask questions. However, the Committee Chair or the Committee members will be better prepared to deal with queries when and if they occur in open Council.

**Officer's Comment (CEO F James):**

With the recommendation that the Committee be made up of a majority of Council Members, and no delegated authority to the Committee generally, the situation cannot arise whereby the recommendation of the Committee could have been "carried" by community members, or generally the Committee usurping of the decision making role of Council.

The recommendation to have:

1. The Committee meeting open to the public was to provide the public with more transparency and confidence in the discussion and decision-making processes of Council. As Councillor Attwell has alluded, the planning function of Council is one the most important and scrutinised, thus enhanced transparency of the process of Council Committee deliberation regarding this function would be appreciated by the community.
2. Invited members of the public to be on the Committee was to provide Council Members with independent and "industry expertise" advice on matters which may be of concern to the industry and or public, and who can provide that input to Council, independent from City staff advice.

If Council wishes to reconsider public participation in this Committee process, the CEO recommends possibly closing the meeting to public attendance and debate, but still strongly recommends inviting a few members of the public to participate as Committee members, providing their industry input and expertise.