

# Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

<b>Board Meeting Part</b>	<b>One</b>
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<b>Date of meeting :</b>	<b>15/07/2015</b>	<b>Agenda item :</b>	<b>EDC 15 / 031</b>
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<b>Title of paper</b>	<b>Composition of the EDC Planning Committee and nominations for 'Other Member' representation.</b>
<b>Presented by</b>	<b>Nicky Linihan: Chief Planning Officer (Interim)</b>
<b>Sub-committee</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>

<b>Purpose of paper</b>	<p>The purpose of the paper is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to respond to the request by Kent County Council for full representation on the EDC Planning Committee</li> <li>• to advise of the local authority nominations in respect of representation on the EDC Planning Committee</li> <li>• to provide an update on the recruitment of the two 'other member' positions on the EDC Planning Committee.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendation</b>	<p>1) To approve the amendment to the composition of the EDC Planning Committee.</p> <p>2) To confirm that the nominations from the local authorities be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.</p> <p>3) To consider the update on the recruitment of the two 'other member' positions on the EDC Planning Committee</p>
<b>Delegation</b>	To delegate to the Chair of Planning Committee and Chief Executive the submission of the two 'other member' nominations to the Secretary of State for approval.

<b>Financial impact</b>	The costs of operating the Planning Committee have been taken into account in the EDC budget.
<b>Legal impact</b>	None.
<b>Stakeholder impact</b>	Representatives from Dartford Borough Council, Gravesham Borough Council and Kent County Council have provided nominations for representation on Planning Committee.
<b>Sponsor impact</b>	Representatives from the Sponsor have been engaged in the development of the composition of the EDC Planning Committee.

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## **1 Background:**

- 1.1 Decision-making powers, in respect of the Planning Functions of the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC), were vested in the EDC on 1 July 2015. Decision making in respect of the EDC's Planning Functions will be undertaken by the EDC Planning Committee and through delegations to the Chief Planning Officer.
- 1.2 The composition of the EDC Planning Committee (as enabled by part 14 of the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation Board Terms of Reference) was considered by the EDC Board on 18 May 2015. The Board requested that the views of Kent County Council be sought with respect to their role on the Planning Committee as it was proposed that this would be in relation to Minerals and Waste applications only. Kent County Council made representations at the meeting of the Board on 17 June 2015 requesting that their representation be widened to cover all matters being considered by Planning Committee.
- 1.3 In addition to the above the Planning Committee is proposed to comprise of 'other members' i.e. non-Board members. This definition includes local authority representatives who are not Board members. The appointment of 'other persons' to the Planning Committee need the approval of the Secretary of State.

## **2 Composition of the Planning Committee**

- 2.1 There were a number of considerations that influenced the recommended approach regarding the composition of the Corporation's Planning Committee. These included the need to identify a balance between local authority Members, EDC Members and "other" Members. In responses to the Government consultation on the establishment of the EDC, a key concern raised by some respondents was that the Development Corporation would take planning decisions which would not take account of local interests and views.
- 2.2 The rationale set out in Appendix 1 to Board Paper Ref: 2015/015 with respect to the composition of the Planning Committee was as follows:  
*Provides for a reasonable balance of membership between EDC Board members, local authority members and 'other' members as well as reflecting the current local planning authority roles and responsibilities within the EDC area, and the size of the EDC Board.*
- 2.3 The request from Kent County Council that its representation on Planning Committee should cover all items being presented has been reviewed against

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this rationale. It is recognised that the remit of Kent County Council covers matters of importance for future development in the EDC area, including in respect of Education and Transport. Consequently it is considered that the request is reasonable and supports the overarching objectives set out in the approach considered by Board on 18 May 2015. This amendment would not require any further changes to the composition of the Planning Committee or the size of the Quorum.

### **3 'Other members' of Planning Committee**

3.1 As set out in Paragraph 1.3 above the local authority representatives on Planning Committee (including substitutes) require the approval of the Secretary of State. The nominations received and proposed for submission to the Secretary of State are as follows:

Dartford Borough Council:

It is understood that the Dartford Borough Council representatives will be confirmed at the General Assembly of the Council on 13 June 2015.

Gravesham Borough Council:

Cllr Robin Theobold (Chair of Gravesham Regulatory Board)

Cllr Harold Craske (substitute – member of Gravesham Regulatory Board)

Kent County Council:

Cllr Matthew Balfour (Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport)

Cllr John Davies (substitute – Chairman – Kent Planning Applications Committee)

3.2 The date for the submission of applications for the two positions for the role as 'other member' of Planning Committee closed at 5:00pm on 30 June 2015. Interviews for those shortlisted will commence on 13 July 2015. A verbal update will be provided to Board under Part II of the agenda as the information relates to personnel matters.