

Review of Committees

This report was generated on 20/10/21. Overall 30 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'

Section 1

This section focuses on Regulatory Committees. These are classed as Licensing, Licensing Sub Committee and **Planning**.

Q1 Which Regulatory Committee(s) do you sit / have you sat on and what is / was your role on them?

Planning - Committee Member (12)	40%
Licensing - Committee Member (10)	33%
Have Not Been a Member on any of the Regulatory Committees (8)	27%
Planning - Former Committee Member (6)	20%
Licensing - Former Committee Member (5)	17%
Licensing Sub Committee - Committee Member (5)	17%
Licensing - Chair (3)	10%
Licensing Sub Committee - Chair (2)	7%
Licensing Sub Committee - Vice Chair (2)	7%
Licensing Sub Committee - Former Committee Member (2)	7%
Planning - Chair (2)	7%
Licensing - Vice Chair (1)	3%

Q2 Do you think that sitting on one of these Committees has made your role as a Councillor: (Planning Committee)

More appealing (9)	32%
Not applicable (9)	32%
Much more appealing (7)	25%
Neither more nor less appealing (2)	7%
Less appealing (1)	4%
A lot less appealing (-)	

Q3 How knowledgeable in the subject areas do you think that sitting on this/these Committee/s has made you? (Planning Committee)

Much more knowledgeable (11)	39%
Not applicable (9)	32%
More knowledgeable (8)	29%
Neither more nor less more knowledgeable (-)	

Q4 How much do you like being a Member of the below Committee(s)? (Planning Committee)

Like a lot (13)	46%
Not applicable (10)	36%
Somewhat like (2)	7%
Neutral (2)	7%
Dislike a lot (1)	4%
Somewhat dislike (-)	

Q5 How involved do you think you are within the business of the Committee(s)? (Planning Committee)

Not applicable (10)	36%
Very involved (8)	29%
Somewhat involved (8)	29%
Not very involved (1)	4%
Not involved at all (1)	4%

Q5a Is there anything you can think of that would improve your involvement?

mandatory training before being able to contribute/vote.. I am attending a course soon.
Training is always useful
A better understanding shown by other members of the committees. It is clear some do not read the papers prior to the meeting. They ask questions which have been clearly answered within the papers and as a result waste a lot of member and officer time.
Although recently appointed to the Licensing Committee, I have not at this point received an invite to a meeting so feel it unfair to comment.
all work very hard to make our meetings run as smoothly as possible
More time on the committee
Still relatively new to committee.

Members being notified of any applications in their wards which would be heard at planning committee
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More training

Q8 How would you rate the following with regards to Planning Committee:

(How well you feel the committee works together)

Not applicable (10)	36%
Good (6)	21%
Fair (6)	21%
Excellent (5)	18%
Poor (1)	4%

(The effectiveness of the Committee meetings)

Not applicable (10)	37%
Good (6)	22%
Excellent (5)	19%
Fair (5)	19%
Poor (1)	4%

(The appropriateness of agenda items)

Not applicable (11)	41%
Excellent (7)	26%
Good (5)	19%
Fair (4)	15%
Poor (-)	

(The size of the agenda)

Not applicable (10)	37%
Fair (7)	26%
Good (5)	9%
Excellent (4)	15%

Poor (1)	4%
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(Quality of member engagement (other than yourself))

Not applicable (10)	36%
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Fair (6)	21%
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Excellent (5)	18%
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Good (5)	18%
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Poor (2)	7%
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(Quality of the officer support within the meetings)

Not applicable (10)	36%
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Excellent (7)	25%
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Good (6)	21%
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Fair (4)	14%
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Poor (1)	4%
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(The amount of reading/preparing that you undertake prior to the meeting)

Not applicable (11)	39%
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Good (10)	36%
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Excellent (6)	21%
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Poor (1)	4%
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Fair (-)	
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(Your preparedness during the committee meeting)

Not applicable (11)	39%
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Good (10)	36%
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Excellent (6)	21%
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Fair (1)	4%
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Poor (-)	
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(Your level of understanding of the reports)

Not applicable (11)	39%
Good (8)	29%
Excellent (6)	21%
Fair (3)	11%
Poor (-)	

(Your contribution within the meetings)

Not applicable (11)	39%
Good (8)	29%
Excellent (6)	21%
Fair (3)	11%
Poor (-)	

(Your overall satisfaction with the meetings)

Not applicable (10)	37%
Good (8)	30%
Excellent (4)	15%
Fair (4)	15%
Poor (1)	4%

Q8a Are there any other comments you would like to make?

Should be evening meetings so that the quality of member attendance could improve not on the committee. However I have attended a number of committee meetings. Sometimes the agenda are too long, and I am not convinced members have read the papers. Also Cllrs rarely challenge the officers recommendations. Not convinced that the committee consider the risks and associated costs of challenge.
Planning committee meetings are too long. Should be no more than 2 applications on any agenda especially when training is tagged on at the end. During the pandemic planning has started at 930am and not finished until 7pm many members dropping out in between ! Some members engagement is spasmodic but more so if it's an application in their ward ! Some members engagement is repetitive and they seem to only be there for the bus ride and free lunch !
Sometimes the Chair's order of meeting is not the same as the Agenda so it is not as slick as it needs to be. There are comments by some members that are not planning related, or

make it obvious that they have not read the reports. The size of the committee could be reduced as other authorities have different set ups.
As in Licensing I feel too many members fail to read their reports and ask far too many questions during the meeting which are all clearly answered in the report. If clarification is necessary that's fine, but not asking, for instance, what the boundary treatment is when the report clearly states a 2 metre high wooden fence will enclose the property? Valuable time wasted.
I think its difficult ot view things as excellent while we still do virtual visits
Planning is what it is, it can't be done at night so is necessary to occupy a day
sometimes the reports are long with a lot of big words when keeping it simple would make the report easy to read
Lack of technical understanding and understanding of role and extent of powers. Questioning/comments not always of highest quality.
not on planning
Only had 3 meetings. Some consistency in agenda size would helpful but that may just be how the applications comer
I am fairly new, but I am enjoying the process of the committee very much
Not currently on PAC
Some members seem much more engaged than others. It often feels like the Officer's recommendation is a foregone conclusion leaving little room for genuine decision making by the committee.

Q9 Do you believe that you have had the appropriate level of training made available so that you can participate in the committee meetings?

Yes (19) 79%

No (5) 21%

Q9a Do you have any suggestions as to how Regulatory Committee training could be improved?

Make it mandatory, and cllrs can't vote until the training is complete
Training should be done in the evenings
Ongoing training is useful, planning do training now before committee with specific areas chosen. 39 to 40 minutes each time allowing for a Question and answer session. It's very useful
Regular updates and refreshing of key factors
I think we need more training
Licensing training is non existent. Planning is better but would prefer external training aswell.
this training is needed for new members or to refresh
just been on a zoom course delivered by Institute of Licensing, a very informative course

Officers do basic training,however I suspect some external basic training to a slightly higher level might help
No, the spreading of training (usually before meetings) is a good idea
Member skill base and competence very important - should not be appointed to make up the numbers etc

Q10 How would you rate your understanding of the following:

(Planning Committee: Your role within the committee)

Not applicable (11)	39%
Good (9)	32%
Excellent (7)	25%
Fair (1)	4%
Poor (-)	

(Planning Committee: The role of the committee)

Good (10)	36%
Not applicable (7)	25%
Excellent (6)	21%
Fair (3)	11%
Poor (2)	7%

(Planning Committee: The current model of the committee)

Good (9)	32%
Not applicable (7)	25%
Poor (5)	18%
Excellent (4)	14%
Fair (3)	11%

Q11 Has your involvement in the Committee(s) so far increased your knowledge and understanding of the Council and its services? (Planning Committee)

Yes (15)	54%
Not applicable (12)	43%

No (1) 4%

Q12 How would you rate the following:

(Planning Committee: The frequency of the meetings)

About right (18) 67%

Not applicable (8) 30%

Too few (1) 4%

Too many (-)

(Planning Committee: The number of members on the committee)

Too many (10) 37%

About right (8) 30%

Not applicable (8) 30%

Too few (1) 4%

Q13 Do you think the timing of the meetings should (Planning Committee):

Stay the same (17) 71%

Move to another part of the day (7) 29%

Q13a Please state which meeting: morning / afternoon / evening

Evenings
All to move to the evening.
Licensing could be evening
Licensing and licensing sub committee meetings can be done in the evening like scrutiny meetings.
All evening meetings although Planning needs site visits which will be difficult to do in the evening during winter mono
I advocate that all meetings should be held in the evenings when the majority of Members will have a better opportunity of attending. For example, the Planning Committee is a daytime commitment, this precludes those with daytime jobs and/or commitments from participating. This in turn affects the age demographic of Members who are more likely to be retired from employment and therefore have daytime availability. This potentially leads to a narrowing of views and opinions which could be viewed as detrimental to decision making.
Morning

Licensing definitely in the evening. Increase the frequency on sub licensing and they can be in the evenings too
morning
Licensing to evening
Afternoon
Evenings would enable more members to participate although site visits for planning would need to be in daylight
Licensing and subs in the evening,
Be mindful of outside bodies and of third parties that attend most of which appreciate a day time mtg - -
Any
I am fairly flexible on meeting times provided I have at least a week's notice. I would be willing to have them in the evening so more members can participate

Q14 Do you have any thoughts on how these Committees could be improved?

Moving to evening would increase the number willing to be on the committee, ie work doesn't impact
Reduce the membership on licensing and planning. Mix up the membership each month on the sun licensing committee apart from the chair and vice
Look at the number of members
Reducing the number of members Ensuring all members wanted to be on the committee and were prepared for thorough training and prepared to fully read all reports Holding all meetings in the evening would allow members who work to serve on Planning or Licensing
Return to physical site visits
All Members, irrespective of if they are involved with either committees, should have a fair working knowledge of how each committee works. I would suggest more Member briefings/seminars would be helpful.
The sub committee on licensing should be reviewed once a year to allow other members to play a more active role More training
Planning 9 members max. Licensing 9 members max, in the evenings. Both chair positions of sub groups of Licensing should be appointed by Council and come with their own SRA, obviously it would be necessary to reassess current SRA too. Sub groups should be in the evenings too.
Smaller with improved training
Halve the number of members.
Split up planning - have site visit and committee on different days - as many councillors can't attend for the whole day and therefore refuse a place
Meetings must be in the evening, I understand Planning would be difficult to hold then. Numbers are too high, reduce membership so the pool of knowledgeable and enthusiastic members is not disrupted by those who are not so keen. Ward members generally should have more input, it's a general point about everything we do but still important.
Members should be encouraged to get out into East Staffs and ensure they have a sense of place and understand the diverse communities in East Staffs.

Not enough members og Licencing Sub-Committee

Planning Committee members should make decisions based on their knowledge of the local environment and the people who live there. They should be assisted by the Officers to articulate Planning reasons for members decisions.