

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

Item	Outcome
Date Of Decision	April 2018 <i>John Hobbs, Director of Economy & Infrastructure</i>
Decision Maker	John Hobbs, Director of Economy & Infrastructure
Brief Description Of Decision	<p>Following extensive consultation with agents, developers, consultees, Parish Councils, Councillors and Members of the Public, the County Council has reviewed and updated its Planning Validation Document. A Response Document has been prepared that sets out the Council's response to the comments received and how these have been taken into account or otherwise in the Final Validation Document.</p> <p>The Validation Document will enable the County Planning Authority to declare a planning application is not valid if an applicant fails to submit an application in accordance with the requirements set out in Validation Document.</p> <p>I endorse the Planning Validation Document to proceed to being published on the County Council's website and used in determining whether planning applications are valid.</p>
Reason(s) For Decision	<p>It is considered that the Validation Document would help guide applicants and their agents through the planning process, offering detailed advice on the documents and information required to submit a successful planning application, thereby giving greater certainty and clarity on what information is required for applications of a particular type, scale or location, whilst looking after Worcestershire's environment by ensuring the right information is submitted in order to enable a timely and informed decision.</p> <p>As well making it simpler for those looking to apply for planning permission, it will also allow the County Council to accept, validate and determine applications more efficiently, reducing delays that may otherwise occur in the processing of planning applications, and further improve the performance of the County Planning Authority. According with the Council's wider 'Open for Business' agenda.</p>
Alternative Options	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires all planning authorities to publish a list of their information

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Considered And Rejected	requirements for applications (a Validation Document), which should be proportionate to the nature and scale of development proposals and reviewed on a frequent basis. The Government Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) requires the Validation Document to be updated at least every two years otherwise the County Council cannot enforce the document. Given that the Validation Document is required by the NPPF, the County Council has not considered alternatives to a Validation Document, but has given consideration to what assessments and supporting information should be part of the validation requirements. This consideration is set out in the Response Document.
Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted	None notified.

April 2018
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