



The Role of Elected Members in the Planning Process

Elected Members perform certain 'reserved' functions in local authorities (mainly policy-making) while Officials perform 'executive' i.e. administrative and decision-making functions: e.g.

 Elected Members Do :	Elected Members Do Not : 
Adopt and amend development plans and local area plans and can make planning schemes where Strategic Development Zones are designated by Government.	Make decisions on planning applications. These are made by the Chief Executive of a local authority taking on board the policies of the development plan made by the members.
Make an observation or submission in respect of a planning application (free of charge).	Discuss the merits of individual planning applications at Municipal District/Area Committee and Council meetings.
Attend pre-application consultation meetings if requested to do so by the prospective applicant.	Require the Chief Executive to serve a warning notice and an enforcement notice because of failure to comply with a planning permission or in the case of an unauthorised development.
Approve certain local authority own developments (with/without modifications) through the 'Part 8 process' under planning legislation.	Take into account matters not relating to proper planning and sustainable development in the performance of planning functions.
Set development levies, under development contribution schemes, on planning permissions which contribute towards infrastructure costs.	
Pass a resolution to have an estate taken in charge.	
Have power to approve development materially contravening development plan or local area plan objectives (but at least three quarters of all of the elected members of the local authority must vote in favour of the resolution).	
Make an order creating a public right of way.	
Add to or delete from the record of protected structures and/or approve, amend or revoke a special planning control scheme.	
Designate an area or place as a landscape conservation area, and/or an order declaring an area to be an area of special amenity.	
Decide to revoke or modify a planning permission where the permitted development no longer conforms with the provisions of the development plan.	