



**DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT  
SECTION ONLY**

Decision No: GE04  
Publication Date: 23/03/09

**Access to Information Procedure Rules  
Notice of Decision taken under the General Exception Procedure**

**A: Decision Taken**

To reduce the amount of press publicity for planning applications to the statutory minimum.

This decision will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 6 April 2009.

This is a Key Decision which has not been included within the Forward Plan, but which must be taken by such a date that it is impracticable to defer the decision until the start of the first month to which the next Forward Plan relates.

**B: Part of the Constitution authorising the decision**

Rule 15 (General Exception Procedure) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Part 4 – Rules of Procedure).

**C: Subject (including whether it is a key decision)**

The reduction of press publicity for planning applications to the statutory minimum – a key decision.

Due to budgetary pressures, the 2009/10 budget for newspaper publicity for planning applications has been reduced by 50% to £29,250. Savings will be achieved by reducing the number of planning applications featured in the weekly press notices from 1 April 2009.

There is a statutory requirement for newspaper publicity for certain planning applications, and these will not be affected by the decision. However, statute requires other planning applications to be publicised only by site notices or individual notifications to neighbouring owners or occupiers (the latter method is not currently employed by Dover District Council). Although it is proposed to change the method of publicity used for such applications, this will still comply with Government guidelines. The continued use of site notices, Parish and Town Council consultation and website publicity will ensure a balance in terms of maximising publicity for planning applications, whilst balancing considerations of cost, speed and opportunities for public comment.

**D: Details of Consultation**

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Planning has been consulted. No additional consultation has been undertaken beyond that associated with the usual budget-making process.