

COVID 19 STATEMENT

Currently, we are in the UK's 'stay at home' lockdown and World Health Organisation has declared COVID19 to be a pandemic. Gatherings of people are not to occur, meaning the meeting of councils and their subsidiary committees cannot go ahead.

The Chief Planner wrote to all planning authorities on the 24th March 2020 advising that "it is important that authorities continue to provide the best service possible in these stretching times and prioritise decision-making to ensure the planning system continues to function, especially where this will support the local economy".

Consistent with the Chief Planner's advice to this Council of "using all options available to you to continue your service" we are exercising the constitutional emergency powers of the Chief Executive under namely:

In the current Covid 19 circumstances, the Chief Executive invokes Emergency Powers under Constitution at Article 12 (1) (d) and nominates and empowers the Strategic Director Economy and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Strategic Committee Chair to make decisions on any issues

Therefore, for the avoidance of doubt, the Strategic Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Chair will determine planning applications that would otherwise have been decided at a meeting of the committee (Strategic or Sub-Committee).

It is essential that planning applications continue to be determined so as to support the economic regeneration of Kirklees following the ease of lockdown measures.

The following items have been considered appropriate for such determination for reasons, which include, but are not exclusive to, the following:

- Economic regeneration
- Generate employment
- Provision of housing
- Heritage regeneration
- Development of brownfield sites
- Potential loss of S106 obligations
- Sustain and support local businesses
- Risk of non-determination appeal costs

Please note, this list is not exhaustive and full details are provided at the beginning of each report contained in this agenda.