



Referrals made under the Council's reservation scheme

The Council's reservation scheme provides a mechanism for councillors to refer decisions to Council for determination. Referrals must be made in writing, shortly after the notice of committees' decisions have been published.

Details of the referred decision are stated later in this paper.

Recommendation

The Council is requested to agree one of the following resolutions:

- **Note the decision of the committee/sub-committee (i.e. the decision stands)**
- **Refer the decision back to the committee/sub-committee for further consideration**
- **Withdraw the decision of the committee/sub-committee (i.e. the decision is not taken)**

In order to provide a structured approach to considering the referred decision, the following process applies:

1. A representative of the councillors who have referred the decision to speak on the reasons for their referral. New reasons may not be introduced. Time limit of five minutes.
2. Chair of the committee/sub-committee that made the decision to respond to the reasons for the referral. Time limit of five minutes.
3. Views from councillors, made in accordance with the rules of debate.
4. A representative of the councillors who have referred the decision to make closing remarks on the referral. Time limit of five minutes.
5. Closing remarks from the chair of the committee/sub-committee. Time limit of five minutes.
6. Votes on the options listed above.

Details of the decision

Meeting: Development Sub-Committee, 15 November 2021

Item: Thameside House - Staines Ward Councillors Development Meeting - Update

Resolution: The committee agreed to proceed on the basis of Block A being 11, 9 and 7 storeys in height and Block B being 8, 6 and 5 storeys in height.

Reasons for referral

Councillors Bateson, Beecher and Mooney have provided the following reasons for referring the decision of the Development Sub-Committee to Council:

Purpose of referral

To discuss and decide by recorded vote whether the full Council endorses the decision taken by the Development Sub-Committee regarding the Councils development, Thameside House. The Cllrs making this referral hold the view that decision reached by the Sub-Committee did not give due consideration to the following:

a) Governance and audit: To ensure the full Council has a complete understanding of the business case set out that sought approval for purchasing Thameside House (i.e. to refurbish the building for affordable housing only) and how, since the acquisition approval was given, the Councils intentions for Thameside House have changed. Ensuring there is a complete audit trail and timeline of ALL decisions taken before and after the purchase (including when and by whom these decisions were taken). This is critically important given the current Waterfront inquiry reference.

b) Officers of the Council did not provide reasonable consideration to a counter proposal for the site: Dismissal of a counter suggestion put forward by the majority number of Staines cllrs, on the grounds that this was not financially viable, with no explanation, discussion or debate by officers.

c) Lack of clarity of information from Officers of the council: Finance and asset departments have provided conflicting information to Staines Cllrs regarding the financial aspects of Thameside house, affordable housing calculations and floor sizes