

NOTICE OF MOTION – Checkley Parish Council

Proposed by: Cllr Wilkinson

Motion: Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 – Removal of Local Member Call-In Rights

This Council notes that:

1. The Government's Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 contains provisions which may significantly reduce or remove the ability of elected District and Borough Councillors to "call in" planning applications for determination by a Planning Committee.
2. The existing call-in process provides an important democratic safeguard, enabling locally elected representatives to ensure that planning applications raising significant public concern, complex planning issues, or matters of local importance are subject to public scrutiny and transparent decision-making.
3. Planning Committees play a vital role in maintaining public confidence in the planning system and in considering the views of local residents, parish councils and other stakeholders.
4. Restricting the ability of elected Councillors to refer applications to committee risks increasing the number of decisions determined solely under delegated powers by planning officers, thereby reducing democratic accountability and local representation within the planning process.
5. Parish Councils are the closest tier of government to local communities and rely upon an open and transparent planning system where significant applications can be publicly scrutinised by elected representatives.

This Council believes that:

1. Local democratic accountability must remain at the heart of the planning system.
2. Residents should continue to have confidence that planning applications affecting their communities can be subject to public debate where appropriate.
3. The removal or significant restriction of local member call-in rights

would weaken local democracy and reduce opportunities for meaningful community engagement in planning decisions.

4. Decisions which have a substantial impact upon local communities should remain capable of being considered by publicly accountable Planning Committees.

Accordingly, Checkley Parish Council resolves to:

1. Formally oppose any provision within the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 which removes or significantly restricts the right of elected District and Borough Councillors to call planning applications before a Planning Committee.
2. Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government expressing the Council's concerns regarding the democratic implications of these proposals.
3. Write to the local Member of Parliament requesting that they oppose any measures which diminish local democratic oversight of planning decisions.

4. Forward a copy of this resolution to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), and neighbouring parish councils for information and support.
5. Request that the Government retains robust mechanisms for elected Members to ensure planning applications of local significance are subject to public scrutiny and democratic decision-making.

Signed:

Cllr Wilkinson
Checkley
Parish Council