

DIRECTION TO ALL DISTRICT COUNCILS

THE PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2015

PLANNING (NOTIFICATION OF COUNCILS' OWN APPLICATIONS) DIRECTION 2015

The Department of the Environment makes the following Direction in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 17 and 18 of the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015(a).

Citation and commencement

1. This Direction may be cited as the Planning (Notification of Councils' Own Applications) Direction 2015 and comes into force on 1st April 2015.

Information to be given to the Department

2. —(1) Where a district council proposes to grant planning permission for development falling within any of the descriptions of development listed in the Schedule to this Direction, it shall send to the Department the following information:

(a) a copy of the planning application, accompanying plans and any other information provided in connection with the application (e.g. transport/retail assessment), together with the full address and post-code of the site to be developed;

(b) copies of all observations submitted by consultees and all representations and petitions received, together with a list of the names and addresses of those who have submitted observations/made representations (including details of any petition organiser if known). Where 'pro-forma' representations are received, only one copy example need be submitted, but all names and addresses must be provided. Copies of petitions should be submitted, but only the organiser or first named should be included in the list of names and addresses;

(c) the district council's comments on the consultees' observations and on representations received;

(d) the district council's reasons for proposing to grant planning permission, including, where relevant, a statement setting out the reasoning;

(i) behind the district council's decision to depart from the development plan;
and/or

(ii) for taking the decision it has, in light of any objections received.

(2) Where the district council holds the information set out in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) above on its website, it may comply with some or all of the requirement to provide this information to the Department by means of an e-mail to the Department containing a link, or a series of links, to the relevant pages on the council's website.

Restriction on grant of planning permission

3. A district council must not grant planning permission for development falling within any of the descriptions of development listed in the Schedule to this Direction before the expiry of a period of 28 days beginning with the date notified to them by the Department as the date of receipt by the Department of the information which the district council is required to give to the Department under paragraph 2.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of the Environment on 23rd March 2015.



Angus Kerr

A senior officer of the Department of the Environment

SCHEDULE

DESCRIPTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT FOR WHICH APPLICATIONS MUST BE NOTIFIED TO THE DEPARTMENT

1. Development in which district councils have an interest

Development:

(a) for which the district council is the applicant/developer;

(b) in respect of which the district council has a financial or other (e.g. partnership) interest; or

(c) to be located on land wholly or partly in the district council's ownership or in which it has an interest;

in circumstances where the proposed development would be significantly contrary to the development plan for its district.