Appendix A- Future of GPC Planning Committee

Problem:
It has been difficult to achieve a quorum for the Planning Committee recently.

Option One:
A proposed response to a group of applications to be circulated via email to all councillors, and councillors could respond to agree or not. Applications legally do not have to be discussed in a committee. In many parishes responding to applications is left to the Clerk, with councillors adding feedback if they desire. Applications flagged as contentious could be discussed at Full Council.

Option Two:
Full Council to review all Applications.

Option Three:
To reduce the size of the current Planning Committee group in the hope that a tighter group prioritises commitment to attendance.

Changes in Planning October 31st 2026:

https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/planning-and-development/changes-to-planning-national-scheme-of-delegation/

Schedule 1 – these applications will always be delegated to officers. They include:

- householder development
- minor residential development (development that creates 1 to 9 new homes or residential development on a site of less than 0.5 hectares where the number of homes is not specified)
- minor commercial development (development that creates less than 1000 square metres of floorspace and/or is on a site of less than 1 hectare)
- approval of details (also known as discharge of conditions)
- reserved matter approvals on outline applications that are not a large outline permission
- non-material amendments
- certificates of lawfulness

Schedule 2 – applications will be delegated to officers by default but may be referred to committee in exceptional circumstances where they meet specific criteria and pass a **Gateway Test**. They include:

- any application that is not a householder, minor commercial or minor residential application
- listed building consent, including applications to vary or discharge conditions
- retrospective planning applications
- reserved matters approvals on a large outline permission
- advertisement consent applications
- applications for consent for works under a tree preservation order