

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

## REVIEW OF THE PLANNING PROTOCOL 1st October 2009

### Report of the Monitoring Officer

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable the Committee to review the Planning Protocol, and to recommend any changes to the Council Business Committee.

**This report is public**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **That the Committee consider the amended Planning Protocol appended to the report, and recommend the Council Business Committee to approve it for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.**

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A review of the Planning Protocol is included in the Work Programme for this meeting.

#### 2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer has made some minor amendments to the Protocol, as set out in the document appended to this report. The amendments are tracked. These are mainly to reflect the fact that Code of Conduct complaints are now made to the Standards Committee rather than to Standards for England (formerly known as the Standards Board for England). The amendments also include those suggested by the Head of Planning and the Head of Democratic Services.

- 2.2 The Protocol has worked well in the past, and officers are satisfied that, with the amendments, it reflects current good practice.

#### 3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 The Monitoring Officer has consulted with the Head of Planning and the Head of Democratic Services whose staff service the Planning Committee meetings, and with the Senior Solicitor who provides legal advice.

#### 4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

- 4.1 The options open to the Committee are to recommend the proposed amendments, to suggest other amendments, or to recommend that the Protocol not be amended at all. The Monitoring Officer would recommend the amendments as set out in the appendix.

<b>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b> (including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)	
None arising from this report.	
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
None directly arising from this report.	
<b>SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b>	
The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.	
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
None directly arising from this report.	
<b>MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b>	
The report has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer in her capacity as adviser to the Standards Committee.	
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Mrs S Taylor <b>Telephone:</b> 01524 582025 <b>E-mail:</b> STaylor@lancaster.gov.uk <b>Ref:</b>
None	