

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Review of the Protocol on Planning Procedure 24th April 2014

Report of the Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable the Committee to consider proposed amendments to the Protocol on Planning Procedure, and to recommend the amended document to the Council Business Committee for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The review of local protocols regulating the conduct of Members falls within the terms of reference of this Committee.
- 1.2 The current Protocol on Planning Procedure was last reviewed in 2009, and had not been amended to take account of the changes introduced by the Localism Act 2011 to the regime for registering and declaring interests.
- 1.3 The Monitoring Officer, in conjunction with the Chief Officer (Regeneration and Planning) has therefore amended the document for consideration by this Committee

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 An amended version of the Protocol is appended to this report as Appendix 1 for the Committee's consideration. For ease of reference the current Protocol is appended at Appendix 2.
- 2.2 The amendments are mainly to ensure that the references to members' interests reflect the statutory requirements as set out in the Localism Act 2011, and the requirements of the City Council's Code of Conduct.
- 2.3 The opportunity has also been taken to update the document generally, and in particular to provide guidance to members of the Planning Committee when they may be considering making a decision that is contrary to officers' recommendations and which may have cost implications for the Council.
- 2.4 Officers are satisfied that, with the proposed amendments, the proposed

revised Protocol reflects current best practice.

3.0 Details of Consultation

3.1 The Monitoring Officer has worked closely with the Chief Officer (Regeneration and Planning) in reviewing the Protocol.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

4.1 The options open to the Committee are to approve the revised protocol appended to this report, or to approve it with further amendments. Not to amend the current Protocol is not an option, as it needs to reflect the current arrangements for registering and declaring interests.

4.2 The officer preferred option is to approve the revised Protocol as drafted.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 The approved amended Protocol should be referred to Council Business Committee for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None directly arising from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The amended Protocol reflects the legal requirements for dealing with planning applications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

None

Information Services:

None

Property:

None

Open Spaces:

None

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The report has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer in her capacity as adviser to the Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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