

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Protocol on Planning Procedure – Constitutional Amendment 12 November 2009

Report of Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report recommends a revised Protocol on Planning Procedure to be included in the Council's Constitution.

This report is public

1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council Business Committee approve the attached revised Protocol on Planning Procedure to be included at Part 7, Section 5 of the Council's Constitution.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Members will be aware that the Constitution currently provides a protocol on planning procedures to provide Members with guidance regarding their role in determining planning applications, in particular, when interacting with applicants, objectors and developers. Ward Members, who are not members of the Planning and Highways Regulatory Committee but who want to address the Committee, are also provided with guidance in the protocol on interaction over their contact with applicants, developers and objectors.

2.1 At its meeting on 1 October 2009, the Standards Committee considered a report submitted by the Monitoring Officer presenting some minor amendments to the Protocol and resolved that a revised Protocol, (as shown at Appendix 1) be forwarded to the Council Business Committee for approval and inclusion in the Council's Constitution.

2.2 The amendments are tracked to highlight the revisions. 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, as well as those requested by the Standards Committee at the meeting.

3.0 Details of Consultation

3.1 In preparing the revisions, the Monitoring Officer 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, as well as the Standards Committee.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis

4.1 The options open to the Committee are to approve the proposed amendments, to suggest other amendments, or to recommend that the Protocol not be amended at all.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Council Business Committee is requested to agree the attached Protocol on Planning Procedure, as revised by the Monitoring Officer and recommended by the Standards Committee.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None directly arising from this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with Article 15 of the Constitution approval of the proposed revised Protocol on Planning Procedure is delegated to the Council Business Committee.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The proposed revised Planning Protocol was presented to the Standards Committee by the Monitoring Officer in her role as the Committee's adviser on standards and conduct issues.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	Contact Officer: Debbie Chambers Telephone: 01524 582057 E-mail: dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk
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Standards Committee agenda and minutes of 1 October 2009 meeting.