

Meeting of: STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date: 16TH JUNE 2005

Report of: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CENTRAL SERVICES)

Reference: CDCS/HLS

Title: REVIEW OF THE PLANNING PROTOCOL

PUBLIC/EXEMPT ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To enable the Committee to review the Planning Protocol which forms part of the Council's Constitution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to consider the revised Planning Protocol attached to the report, and to make recommendations to Council as to the content of the Protocol, which forms part of the Constitution.

REPORT

At its last meeting on the 19th November 2004, the Committee requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting reviewing the Council's Planning Protocol. Minute 26 refers.

The Head of Legal Services and the Head of Planning and Building Control have reviewed the existing Protocol, which is included in the Council's Constitution.

A suggested amended version of the Protocol is appended to this report for Members' consideration. The "tracking" identifies where changes have been made to the current version.

The review has taken account of good practice recommended by the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (ACSeS), guidance from the Standards Board for England, and recent case law. In addition, the opportunity has been taken to include or expand on guidance on issues that have arisen or caused difficulties since the original document was drafted.

Members are asked to consider the amended version, and any other amendments that they may wish to make, with a view to recommending Council to adopt a revised version for inclusion in the Constitution.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

There are no financial implications and the Section 151 Officer has no further comments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The report has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer in conjunction with the Head of Legal Services, and there are no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

ACSeS Model Members' Planning Code of Good Practice.
Lobby groups, dual-hatted members and the Code of Conduct – Standards Board Guidance for Members.