

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

REVIEW OF PROTOCOL ON PLANNING PROCEDURE 15th NOVEMBER 2007

Report of Standards Committee

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report enables Council to consider the recommendations of the Standards Committee to amend the "Protocol on Planning Procedure".

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **That Council adopts the revised version of the "Protocol on Planning Procedure", as detailed in the Appendix, for inclusion in the Constitution.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 13th September 2007, the Standards Committee considered a report from the Monitoring Officer suggesting amendments to the "Protocol on Planning Procedure" which forms part of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.2 A number of amendments were needed to ensure that the Protocol was consistent with the revised Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on the 21st May 2007. In amending the Protocol, the Monitoring Officer had also taken account of new guidance from the Standards Board, good practice recommended by the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (ACSeS), recent case law, and recent advice obtained from Counsel.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 The Committee considered the amended Protocol which had been drafted by the Monitoring Officer, and suggested some further amendments to the drafting. The Committee resolved to delegate to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, the final wording of the Protocol for recommendation to Council for inclusion in the Constitution.
- 2.2 A copy of the revised "Protocol on Planning Procedure", finalised by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman is appended to this report.

3.0 Details of Consultation

3.1 It is for the Standards Committee to advise the Council on suitable protocols and Code of Conduct issues generally.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

4.1 Council is asked to consider the amendments recommended by the Standards Committee, noting that it is within the terms of reference of the Standards Committee to ensure that all Members of Council have access to the appropriate written guidance protocols in all aspects of the Code of Conduct. The options open to Council are to approve or reject the Protocol as appended to this report or to approve other amendments to the Protocol.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Council is asked to consider the recommendations of the Standards Committee.

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

None arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have been consulted and have no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS	Contact Officer: Mrs. S. Taylor Telephone: 01524 582025 E-mail: STaylor@lancaster.gov.uk Ref:
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None