

## **Report to Planning Committee**

**Subject:** Review of the Planning Code of Practice for Councillors in Dealing with Planning Applications and the Planning Committee Protocol

**Date:** 09 October 2023

**Author:** Head of Development and Place

### **Purpose**

To seek approval to establish a working group to support the review of the Council's Planning Code of Practice for Councillors in Dealing with Planning Applications and the Planning Committee Protocol.

### **Recommendation(s)**

#### **THAT Planning Committee:**

- 1) Agrees to establish a cross-party working group of up to 6 Members, drawn from the Planning Committee, to facilitate a review of the Council's Planning Code of Practice for Councillors in Dealing with Planning Applications and the Planning Committee Protocol.**
- 2) Agrees that the Chairman of the Planning Committee will determine the membership and provide the details to the Head of Development and Place.**

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 Section 10 of the Council's Constitution sets out the Rules for Planning Committee and at sub-section 8 contains the Code of Practice for Councillors in Dealing with Planning Applications. This code is supported by the Planning Protocol which accompanies the Planning Agenda at each Planning Committee. These rules provide the framework for the running of Planning Committee meetings and have been established in line with guidance and legislation to ensure good governance and decision making.

- 1.2 The Planning Code of Practice for Councillors in Dealing with Planning Applications and the Planning Committee Protocol was last reviewed some time ago and is due to be reviewed.
- 1.3 It is good practice to regularly review the arrangements in place for Committees and Planning Committee is no different.

## **2 Proposal**

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Council's Planning Code of Practice for Councillors in Dealing with Planning Applications and the Planning Committee Protocol be reviewed in order to ensure that they facilitate the efficient and lawful running of the Planning Committee meetings and to provide clarity to members and the public on procedure.
- 2.2 In order to support this review, it is proposed that a cross party working group of 6 Members be established to consider amendments to the Planning Code of Practice for Councillors in Dealing with Planning Applications and the Planning Committee Protocol. On completion of the review any amendments to both the Planning Code of Practice for Councillors in Dealing with Planning Applications and the Planning Committee Protocol will be presented for adoption by full Council.

## **3 Alternative Options**

- 3.1 Members could determine not to review the Planning Code of Practice for Councillors in Dealing with Planning Applications and the Planning Committee Protocol, however, it is good practice to regularly review the effectiveness of committees.

## **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

## **5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Council's Planning Code of Practice for Councillors in Dealing with Planning Applications contained at section 10 of the Constitution is based on the Guidance Note issued by the Local Government Association on Probity in Planning for Councillors and Officers updated in December 2019. The Planning Committee Protocol, which accompanies every Planning Committee Agenda is a summarised version of the Code contained in the Constitution.

## **6 Equalities Implications**

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

**7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications**

7.1 There are no carbon reduction/sustainability implications arising from this report.

**8 Appendices**

8.1 None

**9 Background Papers**

9.1 None

**10 Reasons for decision**

10.1 To ensure efficiency and legality in the running of Planning Committee.

**Statutory Officer approval**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer**

**Drafted by the Deputy Monitoring  
Officer**