

Report to Planning Committee

Subject: Update regarding the review of the Planning Code of Practice for Councillors in Dealing with Planning Applications and the Planning Committee Protocol

Date: 14th November 2023

Author: Head of Development and Place

Purpose

To seek updated approval to establish a working group of 7 Members 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 7 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 On the 18th October 2023 Planning Committee resolved to establish a cross-party working group of up to 6 Members to review the Council's Planning Code of Practice for Councillors in Dealing with Planning Applications and the Planning Committee Protocol. Since this time there has been a change to the political makeup of the Planning Committee.

- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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. It is good practice to regularly review the arrangements in place for Committees and Planning Committee is no different.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 To support this review and ensure the working group makeup is reflective of the different political parties, it is proposed that a cross party working group of 7 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 include a further Member to the existing working group, thus resulting in the working group remaining at 6 Members with the reflective makeup to include the new political party being catered for within the existing 6 members.

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.