

Subject: Planning Code of Practice

Meeting: Standards Committee

Date: 11th March 2024

Divisions/Wards Affected: All

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 To update the Standards Committee in relation to the Planning Code of Practice.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That Standards Committee notes the position in relation to the Planning Code of Practice, attached at Appendix 1.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 At a meeting of the Standards Committee on 9th October 2023 members noted that there was a document entitled a 'Planning Code of Practice' which appeared to prescribe rules and procedures for the meetings of Planning Committee, but did not appear in the Council's constitution. The Chair of the Standards Committee raised this issue with the new Monitoring Officer in November 2023 and asked him to clarify the status of the document at the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

3.2 The Monitoring Officer has reviewed the position with colleagues in the planning department and noted that although the Code of Practice appeared to prescribe procedural rules and best practice guidance for both members and officers involved in the planning process, it was unclear what status the document had, in that it did not form part of the Council's constitution and had not been reviewed for several years.

3.3 Further, as the purpose of the Code of Practice is to provide procedural rules and guidance, it is the view of the Monitoring Officer that it should be incorporated into the Council's constitution.

3.4 The Monitoring Officer asked planning colleagues to review the Code of Practice with the support of the Council's Planning Lawyer to ensure that it was up to date with current law and guidance.

3.5 A revised Code of Practice has now been prepared (attached at Appendix 1). This document was approved by a meeting of the Planning Committee on 6th February 2024 subject to the approval of Council.

3.6 Members are asked to note that in order for the revised Code of Practice to be incorporated into the Council's constitution, it must be approved by a meeting of Council in due course.

4. REASONS

- 4.1 To ensure that rules and procedures of the Planning Committee are appropriately incorporated into the Council's constitution.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no immediate financial impacts arising from the proposals.

6. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

- 6.1 No implications.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Planning Code of Practice

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