

MEMBER CONDUCT COMMITTEE – 3RD DECEMBER 2018

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Part A

ITEM 7 REVIEW OF THE PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Purpose of Report

To provide the Committee with an opportunity to review the Planning Code of Good Practice.

Recommendation

That the Committee considers the consultation responses and considers whether they wish to recommend any amendments.

Reason

To consider any proposals that have been made to amend the Planning Code of Good Practice.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The functions and responsibilities of the Committee set out in the Council's Constitution include monitoring the operation of, and advising the Council on, the adoption or revision of codes and protocols relating to standards issues which included the Planning Code of Good Practice.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions

The Council reviews the Constitution each year. As part of the review consultation is has been undertaken with officers, and members of the Plans Committee and the Member Conduct Committee. It is planned to submit the results of the Constitutional review to the Cabinet and then to Council in the new year.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

None

Risk Management

No risks have been identified with this decision.

Background Papers: None

Officer to Contact: Adrian Ward
Head of Strategic Support and Monitoring Officer
01509 634573
adrian.ward@charnwood.gov.uk

Background

1. Members of the Plans Committee and the Member Conduct Committee, and the Head of Planning & Regeneration have been consulted by email about any amendments to the Planning Code of Good Practice that they felt may be beneficial.

2. The Head of Planning & Regeneration responded with the following comment:

'Section 8.3 of the code relates to all councillors and attendance at public meetings. It seems to me that advice would be helpful to assist all councillors when considering invitations to attend private meetings with applicants/developers'.

3. The current relevant sections of the Planning Code are:

Applying to all Councillors:

8.1 'Councillors can involve themselves in discussions with developers, their constituents and others about planning matters. However, difficulties can be avoided if Councillors inform officers about any approaches made and seek advice'.

Applying to Plans Committee Members:

8.2 'They should not agree to any formal, private meeting with applicants, developers or objectors if you can avoid it',
'If you feel that a site visit or meeting would be useful in clarifying the issues, you should never seek to arrange that meeting yourself but should request the Head of Planning and Regeneration to organise it'.

Applying to all Councillors:

8.3 'Councillors are able to attend public meetings and presentations by applicants/developers which are open to the public'.

4. The Committee is asked to consider whether any further clarification is required within the Planning Code regarding private meetings with applicants, developers or objectors.