

MEMBER CONDUCT COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2023

Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer

Part A

REVIEW OF MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT AND PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Purpose of Report

To provide the Committee with a briefing about the annual review of the Council's Constitution and those parts of the Constitution that relate to the roles of the Committee.

Recommendation

That the Committee makes any recommendations regarding changes to the Council's Constitution relating to its roles that it wishes to see.

Reasons

To enable the Committee's views to form part of the annual review of the Council's Constitution.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The roles of the Committee includes:

- monitoring the operation of, and advising the Council on, the adoption or revision of codes and protocols relating to standards issues which includes the Planning Code of Good Practice.
- overseeing the process for dealing with complaints that those codes and protocols have been breached and where necessary making determinations of specific complaints
- making recommendations on major amendments to the Council's Constitution which involve standards issues.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions

The Council reviews the Constitution each year. As part of the review consultation is undertaken with officers and councillors. It is planned to submit the results of the review to the Cabinet on 4th April 2024 and Council on 22 April 2024.

Report Implications

Financial Implications

None

Risk Management

No risks have been identified with this decision.

Equality and Diversity

None identified.

Climate Change and Carbon Impact

None identified.

Crime and Disorder

None identified.

Wards Affected

None

Publicity Arrangements

N/A

Consultations

N/A

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Caring for the Environment	No
Healthy Communities	No
A Thriving Economy	No
Your Council	Yes

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: None

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Part B

Background

1. Members of the Plans Committee and the Member Conduct Committee, and the Head of Planning & Growth have been consulted by email on the following matters:
 - Arrangements for Dealing with complaints about Member Conduct (Chapter 18)
 - Members' Code of Conduct (Chapter 20)
 - Monitoring Officer Protocol (Chapter 23)
 - Planning Code of Good Practice (Chapter 24). Noting that the Member Conduct Committee last reviewed this Code in December 2021 and the Planning Service Review in 2023 identified a number of changes which were considered at Council on 6 November 2023.

At the date of the agenda despatch, no amendments or suggestions have been received from any councillors or officers.

2. The Committee is asked to consider any recommendations regarding changes to the Council's Constitution that relate to the roles of the Committee.