

Members' Planning Code of Good Practice

Officer contact: David Ruddock, Tel: 01494 421252
David Ruddock @wycombe.gov.uk

Wards affected: All

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

(i) That That Council adopt the appended Members' Planning Code of Good Practice to reflect the changes to the Standards Regime introduced by the Localism Act 2011, as a replacement for the current Planning Matters Guidance Note in section D of Part 5 of the Constitution. replaced by.

(ii) That delegated authority is given to the Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services in consultation with the Head of Planning and Sustainability to make any necessary minor amendments to Members' Planning Code of Good Practice.

Reason for Decision

The Planning Matters Guidance Note needs to be refreshed and updated taking into account the recent changes to the legislation and to ensure that the Members' Planning Code of Good Practice supplements and reflects the changes made to the Standards Regime and the introduction of the new Members' Code of Conduct.

Corporate Implications

The Localism Act 2011 introduced fundamental changes to the regulation of standards of conduct.

Personal and prejudicial Interests have been replaced by Disclosable Pecuniary Interests ("DPI's").

The Council adopted its own Code of Conduct under the Localism Act 2011 on 31 July 2012.

The Members' Planning Code of Good Practice seeks to explain and supplement the Members' Code of Conduct for the purpose of planning control.

Executive Summary

The aim of the Members' Planning Code of Good Practice is to ensure that in the planning process decisions are seen to be well founded and not biased or partial in any way and to aid members and planning officers' when involving themselves in the planning decisions on the Planning Committee, Regulatory and Appeals Committee or as the Standing Deputy on either of the Committees. The current Planning Matters Guidance Note is out of date and needs to be updated to take in to account the changes made under the Localism Act 2011 to the Members' Code of Conduct. The

Code further seeks to cover good practices when members are part of decision making meetings of the Council in exercising the functions of the Council as local planning authority or when involved on less formal occasions such as meetings with officers, with the public or with developers.

The Planning Committee has resolved that the appended Members' Planning Code of Good Practice be referred to Standards Committee for adoption by Full Council.

Sustainable Community Strategy/Council Priorities - Implications

None

Background and Issues

None

Options

As set out above.

Conclusions

Members are asked to support the above recommendation.

Next Steps

The Members' Planning Code of Good Code will be recommended to Full Council for adoption.

Background Papers

The Members' Planning Code of Good Practice.