

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

15 DECEMBER 2015

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL SERVICES

MEMBERS' PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Reason for this Report

1. To improve public perceptions relating to openness and transparency

Background

2. The Committee identified the Council's planning processes and procedures as a key item of business in its Forward Work Plan for 2015/16. It is also important to note that the Planning committee has recently begun to webcast its meetings over the internet.
3. The Committee had previously received a report at its meeting on 10th January 2007 following a Wales Audit specific recommendation that the Council prepare a code of practice for Councillors and Officers involved in the planning process, having regard to better practice across Wales.
4. As a result of this, the Council subsequently adopted the Planning Code of Good Practice set out at Appendix 1 to this Report. The Code now forms part of the Constitution. The Planning Code has been prepared in accordance with the Member Code of Conduct and the Royal Town Planning Institute Code of Conduct for Chartered Planners.

Issues

5. The Code has the following objectives:
 - To guide and protect officers and members in dealing with planning related matters from criticism and challenge
 - To inform potential developers and members of the general public of the standards adopted by Cardiff council and the performance of its planning function

- To ensure that, in the planning process, there are no grounds for suggesting that a decision has been biased, partial or not well founded in any way.
6. The Committee is invited to review the Code to see how well it meets these objectives. The Committee may wish to review best practice across the UK in relation to these matters. The Committee may also wish to arrange to send an observer to a Planning Committee Meeting to see how the Code operates in practice.

Legal Implications

7. None identified

Financial Implications

8. None Identified

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report is noted and any further actions agreed

MARIE ROSENTHAL
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL SERVICES
8 December 2015

The following Appendix is attached:

MEMBERS PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

The following Background Documents have been taken into account:
None Identified