

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

B. REVISED MEMBERS' PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to present a revised Members' Planning Code of Good Practice (the Planning Code) for approval.

Background

2. In 2010 the Council adopted a Planning Code. It was based on a model originally produced by the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (now the LLG (Lawyers in Local Government)) which was prepared following the introduction of the new ethical framework and consultation with the Local Government Association (LGA), the Local Government Ombudsman, and firms of solicitors and Counsel acting on their behalf.
3. In 2017 the Planning Code was reviewed to take account of changes in legislation and guidance including changes introduced by the Localism Act 2011 relating to declarations of interest and changes in approach to issues such as predetermination. The updated Planning Code was considered by the Corporate Governance Committee and the Development Control and Regulatory Board in February and March 2017 respectively. It was subsequently approved by the County Council on 22 March 2017.
4. At the County Council meeting on 1 December 2021 a revised Members' Code of Conduct was approved. This was based on a new draft model Code of Conduct which had been produced by the LGA following a report by the Committee on Standards in Public Life which made various recommendations to strengthen the code. Minor revisions were made to the LGA Model Code to reflect local issues, creating a locally amended Model Code. The most significant changes to the Code related to declaring interests and the categories of interest were renamed as:
 - Registrable interests:
 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests;
 - Other registrable interests;
 - Non-registrable interests.
5. On 13 October 2022 the Development Control and Regulatory Board considered proposed amendments to The Members' Planning Code of Good Practice in line with the Members' Code of Conduct and particularly the changes with regards to registering interests. Those amendments were also considered by the Corporate Governance Committee before being approved by County Council on 7 December 2022.

Revision of the Members' Planning Code of Good Practice

6. In January 2024 LLG in conjunction with the LGA produced a new model Council Planning Code and Protocol. The main changes related to the use of social media by members on planning committees.
7. It is proposed to retain the existing Leicestershire County Council Members' Planning Code of Good Practice but insert the sections on social media from the model Code into the Leicestershire County Council Code (See Appendix A).

Comments of the Development Control and Regulatory Board

8. The revised Planning Code was considered, and the proposed changes supported, by the Development Control and Regulatory Board at its meeting on 4th April 2024.

Resource Implications

9. There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Equality Implications

10. There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Consideration by the Corporate Governance Committee

11. The Corporate Governance Committee at its meeting on 20 May considered the Revised Planning Code of Good Practice, together with the comments made by the Development Control and Regulatory Board. The decision of the Corporate Governance Committee is reflected in the motion below.

(Motion to be moved: -

That the revised Planning Code of Good Practice, attached as Appendix A to this report, be adopted.)

20 May 2024

**Mr. T. Barkley CC
Chairman of the Corporate
Governance Committee**

Background Papers

[Report to the Corporate Governance Committee at its meeting on 20 May 2024 – Revised Members' Planning Code of Good Practice](#)

Appendix

Appendix A – Revised Members' Planning Code of Good Practice 2024

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