

## **Planning Committee Protocols**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 25 July 2013, the Planning Control Committee approved minor revisions to the adopted Planning Protocol, which is to be found at Appendix 2.
- 1.2 The Planning Protocol needs to be amended to reflect changes that have taken place since its adoption in 2005, most significantly those brought about by the adoption of the Members Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To consider and comment upon the current Planning Protocol

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To provide members of the Standards Committee with an opportunity to consider and comment upon the current Planning Protocol.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The Planning Protocol needed to be amended to reflect changes that had taken place since its adoption in 2005, most significantly those brought about by the adoption of the Members Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011.
- 4.2 The previous Planning Protocol was adopted by the Planning Control Committee on 28 April 2005.
- 4.3 Whilst there is no statutory requirement to adopt such protocols, it is considered good practice to do so. The current guidance was based on the Local Government Association (LGA) guide to Probity In Planning, which advises local authorities to prepare such protocols to suit local circumstances, and it also drew on advice from the Royal Town Planning Institute.

- 4.4 Attached at Appendix 2 is the Planning Protocol that was approved by the Planning Control Committee with the changes shown as deleted or underlined.
- 4.5 Changes to the sections dealing with Gifts and Hospitality and to that of Interests were made to reflect the changes brought about by the adoption in July 2012 of the Members Code of Conduct. Other amendments arose either in terms of the sections dealing with Lobbying and Complaints to make them consistent with the Localism Act or to address changes in terminology or officer titles.

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
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5.1 N/A

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b>	Janie Berry – Director of Legal and Democratic Services
<b>Financial officer</b>	N/A
<b>Human Resources officer</b>	N/A
<b>Estates/Property officer</b>	N/A
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	N/A
<b>Other(s)</b>	N/A

  

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<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Planning Protocol

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

1.1 None.

**Legal**

2.1 There is no statutory requirement to adopt a protocol; however, the GLA advises that it is good practice to do so.

**Personnel**

3.1 None.

**Equalities Impact**

4.1 None.

**Health and Safety**

5.1 None.

**Environmental Sustainability**

6.1 None.

**Property and Asset Management**

7.1 None.

**Risk Management**

8.1 Protocols provide guidance and support to sound decision making and in good governance and accordingly may be relevant in reviewing such decisions.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

9.1 To assist in delivering excellent services, performance and value for money.

