

Terms of Reference: Members' Code of Planning Practice Working Group

Context

The Audit Committee is responsible for undertaking an Annual Review of the Council Constitution and, during its latest review, the Committee (at its meeting on 20 March 2018) resolved that: '*A Members' Code of Planning Practice be drafted and presented for approval as soon as is practically possible.*'

Subsequent to this resolution, a draft Code was presented to the Annual Council meeting held on 22 May 2018 for approval. The Council felt that the draft Code required further consideration before it could approve it and it was consequently resolved that: '*The draft 'Members Code of Planning Practice' be deferred to the Council Meeting on 24 July 2018 for further consideration.*'

Purpose

To review the draft Members Code of Planning Practice before presenting, as soon as is practically possible, a final draft version to the Council for its approval.

Objectives

To recommend approval of a Code that will promote good practice and 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.

The Operation of the Group

- The Group will determine how many meetings it requires before it makes its recommendations to the Council;
- The Group will be supported by officers from the Legal, Democratic Services and Development Management Community Of Practices;
- The Group will comprise of 6 Members; a Chairman will be elected at the first meeting;
- In the event of an equal number of votes for and against a motion, the Chairman will be entitled to a second (or 'casting') vote;
- The wider membership will be made aware of meeting date(s) and time(s) via the Members' Bulletin; and
- Action points will be recorded for all meetings.