

3. **PROTOCOL ON PLANNING – DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND PLANNING POLICY – REVISED VERSION (A.1118/EWJ)**

Proposal

1 This report requests the meeting to adopt a revised Planning Protocol as a consequence of the introduction of the new Members' Code of Conduct.

2 **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the revised Protocol on Planning Development Control and Planning Policy as set out in Annex 1 of the report be adopted.

Policy/Legal Background

3 The original Protocol adopted in 2003 was prepared on the basis of guidance from the Standards Board that was available at that time. That version was amended in October 2006 following more detailed guidance from the Standards Board.

4 The introduction of a new Members' Code of Conduct in October 2007 and new statutory guidance from the Standards Board has affected some of the guidance for Members on planning matters that is contained in the current Protocol.


Key Issues

5 The Protocol provides guidance as part of the Authority's good governance framework.

6 The Protocol seeks to relate the general provisions of the code specifically to development control and planning policy but goes beyond the probity concerns of the code. The protocol applies to the determination by the Authority of planning applications and enforcement matters and the formulation of planning policy through the development plan process and any other supplementary policy guidance.

7 The new Code of Conduct has changed the requirements for declaring personal and prejudicial interests at meetings and permits Members with a prejudicial interest to make a representation to the public part of a meeting.

8 The relevant sections of the Protocol have been revised to reflect these recent changes.

9 These sections are shown marked  in Annex 1.

APPENDIX

Background

1 See main report.

Resources

2 Current stocks of the Protocol are low so there will be no additional resource implications arising from printing the revised version.

Risk Management

3 The Protocol has been brought up to date to address the risks identified and ensure that Members are operating in the framework of the new Code of Conduct and the most recent statutory guidance.

Human Rights, Equalities, Health & Safety

4 The Protocol respects all Human Rights and equalities issues. There are no health and safety implications.

Consultees

5 Head of Law.

Enclosures

6 Annex 1: Protocol on Planning Development Control and Planning Policy

List of Background Papers (not previously published)

7 None

Report Author

8 Eugene Judge Democratic Services Manager

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9 18 March 2008