

## County Planning Committee

5 February 2019

Proposed amendment to the Code of Practice for Members and Officers dealing with Planning Matters



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### Report of Corporate Management Team

Helen Lynch, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

#### Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

#### Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present proposals for the revision of the Council's Code of Practice for Members and Officers dealing with Planning Matters.

#### Executive summary

- 2 The Council's Constitution is reviewed annually. This provides an opportunity to make amendments to address any areas where it is considered greater clarity would be beneficial. An amendment is proposed to add a new Paragraph 9.6 to make it clear that members of Planning Committees cannot participate in voting on an application if they have missed any part of the presentations submissions or debate.

#### Recommendation

- 4 The Committee are asked to consider the changes proposed prior to consideration by the Constitution Working Group, Cabinet and then Council.

#### Background

5. It represents good governance to keep Codes of Practice under review. Accordingly, Officers have reviewed the Code of Practice for Members and Officers dealing with planning matters. It is proposed to amend the code to cover members seeking to vote when they have not been present for the full presentation/debate at Planning Committees. Any proposed amendments put forward by the Planning Committee will be included in the report to Constitution Working Group on 14 February 2019. The proposed changes are set out in Appendix 2 to the report

## **6. Next Steps**

The report will be presented to the Constitution Working Group on 14 February 2019, prior to consideration by Cabinet on 13 March 2019 and then annual council in May 2019. Cabinet will be required to approve the scheme of delegation to officers.

## **Background papers**

None

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