

Meeting	Joint Standards Committee
Date	11 September 2013
Present	Councillor Runciman (Chair) (CYC Member) Councillor Barton (CYC Member) Councillor Crawford (Parish Councillor) Councillor Horton (CYC Member) Councillor Taylor (CYC Member)
In attendance	Mr Hall (Independent Person) Mr Laverick (Independent Person)
Apologies	Councillors Martin and Simpson (Parish Councillors)

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

20. PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

[See also Part A minute]

Members considered a report that provided an update in respect of the production of a local planning code of good practice.

Members noted the amendments that had been made to the draft that had previously been considered by the Committee. The amendments, detailed in paragraph 4 of the report, took into account the recently published revised Local Government Association “Probity in Planning” guidance.

It was noted that the Council’s existing code went further than the new guidance in that the code stated that Members should not act as the lead spokesman for a group supporting or opposing a development. This advice was not contained in the guidance. Instead the guidance suggested that whenever a councillor, whether or not a committee member, spoke on behalf of a lobby group they should withdraw from the meeting after the public speaking session. Members were asked to consider whether to replicate this advice.

Members suggested the following amendments to the draft code:

- Greater clarity in the wording of the code to better differentiate between Members of Council and Members of Planning Committees
- Replicate the advice in the LGA guidance in respect of Members of Council withdrawing from meetings after the public speaking session in the circumstances when they have spoken on behalf of a lobby group.
- Deletion of paragraph 7.3
- Paragraph 10.3 to include reference to the requirement to comply with National Planning Guidance.
- Paragraph 14.1 to be amended to read “prescribed *training*”

Recommend: That, subject to the agreed amendments, the revised Planning Code of Good Practice be adopted.

Reason: To ensure that planning decisions are made openly, impartially and for justifiable reasons.

Councillor Runciman, Chair

[The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 3.50 pm].