

Joint Standards Committee

19th April 2017

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Update on planning issues

Summary

1. At previous meetings Members have requested information in relation to a number of planning issues and also recommended certain actions. This report updates the Committee in respect of those matters.

Planning Panels

2. At the last meeting a question was raised about the provision of training for Planning Panel Members. The relevant Officers have confirmed that this training is being provided internally through the Planning team. It is Officers' understanding that the Local Councils Association is arranging training for Parish Councils.
3. The Monitoring Officer has prepared a draft code of conduct for Planning Panels for discussion. This appears at annex one. Members' views are particularly sought as to whether the draft is at the right level, whether it is practical enough and whether any key points have been missed.
4. Answers have been obtained to specific questions asked by Members as follows:
 - *The number of planning panels – Six.*
 - *The number of members on each planning panel – between 3 and 15 although this can vary.*
 - *Any arrangements in place to report back to the relevant Ward Committee – only that the Panel appointments are made at the Ward Committee.*

- *Clarification as to whether CYC officers were in attendance at Planning Panel meetings – Officers do not regularly attend*

5. Members' recommendation that a standard format be used to inform the Planning team of the Planning Panels' views on applications has been passed to the relevant Officers.

Members' consideration of planning applications

6. Members recommended at the last meeting that consideration should be given to the putting in place of guidance in respect of Planning Site Visits and how these would be conducted. This has been taken forward and draft guidance is close to being finalised. If available it will be circulated at the meeting.
7. The option of purchasing a traffic light system for timing speakers has been pursued. A potential supplier has now been identified. This possibility remains under active consideration.
8. The Committee's recommendation that during training emphasis is given to the importance of ensuring that Members avoided acting in a way that gave the perception that they were not giving full consideration to an application; has been passed to the Planning team.

Recommendations

9. Members are recommended to:
 - 1) Note the update on action since the last meeting
 - 2) Approve the draft code of conduct for Planning panel Members for further consultation

Reason: To support high ethical standards in planning processes.

Contact Details

Author:

Andrew Docherty
Monitoring Officer
Customer and Business
Support Services
Tel No. 01904 551004

**Report
Approved**

Date 06/04/17

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex One – Draft Code of conduct for Planning Panels

Background Papers:

None