

MEMBERS PROTOCOL ON PLANNING MATTERS

Purpose of the Report

To provide the Planning Committee with an opportunity to inform the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee of its views on the proposed Members Protocol on Planning Matters.

Recommendation

That should the Planning Committee wish to comment on the proposed Protocol it does so now, so that its views can be taken into account at the meeting of the above Scrutiny Committee due to be held on 28th January 2016.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 The Council has at present as an Appendix to its Constitution a 'Planning Committee Members' Protocol'.
- 1.2 That document is out of date in a number of respects. It does not reflect the provisions of the Localism Act, current guidance, most particular 'Probity in Planning' by the Local Government Association and the Planning Advisory Service, and a number of decisions made by the Planning Committee over the years relating to its policy, for example with respect to site visits.
- 1.3 Cabinet agreed, in its response to the Planning Peer Review that a review of that document should be undertaken. An updated document was considered by the Constitution Review Working Group at a meeting held on 24th November 2015. A copy of the document is attached to this report. Members of the Group had no comments to make in relation to the Protocol and were happy to recommend it to the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee for consideration. They also agreed that the Protocol should be shared with the Planning Committee so that any comments from the Planning Committee can then be considered by the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Committee at its meeting on the 28th January 2016 prior to the Protocol being submitted to Full Council in February for agreement.

2. **Date report prepared**

30th November 2015