

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22 November 2016

Scrutiny of Update to Constitution – Code of Conduct for members and officers dealing with planning matters

For Recommendation

Portfolio Holder(s)/ Briefholder

Councillor Peter Barrowcliff, Corporate
Councillor Ian Gardner, Planning

Senior Leadership Team Contact:

S Caundle, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author:

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Statutory Authority

Local Government Act 2000 and Localism Act 2011 sets out the requirement for local authorities to establish overview and scrutiny committees and their functions.

Purpose of Report

- 1 To review the Code of Conduct for members and officers dealing with planning matters further to the resolution of Full Council on 3 November 2016.

Officer Recommendations

- 2 That the committee review the Code of Conduct for members and officers dealing with planning matters and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Reason for Decision

- 3 To respond to the resolution of Full Council on 3 November 2016 for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake a review of the Code of Conduct for members and officers dealing with planning matters for recommendation to the Executive Committee.

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- 5 Between April and June 2016, members considered and approved various changes to the Constitutions of the councils to seek to deliver an improved convergence of democratic issues across the Dorset Councils Partnership. At that time members were informed that further changes to the Constitutions would be necessary to gradually begin to seek to facilitate the better alignment of provisions within.
- 6 At Council on 3 November 2016, members considered a number of changes to the Constitution, many of which would help to deliver a standardised position across all three partner councils. These changes were agreed by Council with the exception of an update to align the existing Code of Conduct for members and officers dealing with planning matters. At the meeting a number of concerns were raised with regard to this document and it was agreed that the draft document should be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for re-examination and to provide comments and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee.
- 7 The draft Code of Conduct for members and officers dealing with planning matters is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

Implications

- 12 As set out in the report to Full Council 3 November 2016 – Update to Constitution

Appendices

- 13 Appendix 1 – Draft Code of Conduct for members and officers dealing with planning matters

Background Papers

- 14 Report to Full Council 3 November 2016 – Update to Constitution:
<http://moderngovdcp.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=157&Mid=490&Ver=4>
Constitution of West Dorset District Council

Footnote

- 15 Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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