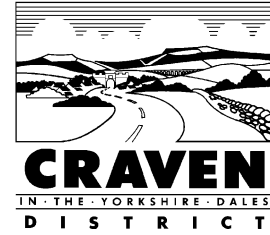


## Planning Committee 13 March 2017

### Probity in Planning



#### Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer

Ward(s) affected: ALL

1. **Purpose of Report** – To update Members on the planned work being undertaken by Standards Committee in relation to 'Probity in Planning' and the Craven District Council 'Planning Code of Good Practice for Members'.
2. **Recommendations** – Members are asked to note the contents of the report.
3. **Report**
  - 3.1 Members will be familiar with the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) guide 'Probity in Planning' This seeks to clarify how Councillors can be involved in planning decisions on plan making and applications, on behalf of their communities in a fair, impartial and transparent way.
  - 3.2 In 2010, the Council adopted the 'Planning Code of Good Practice'. This Code seeks to consolidate and build on the 'Probity in Planning' guide by informing Members and members of the public of the standards promoted by Craven District Council in connection with the performance of planning functions.
  - 3.3 The 'Planning Code of Good Practice' was last updated in November 2013 and needs to be reviewed and refreshed.
  - 3.4 The purpose of the 'Planning Code of Good Practice' is to provide a practical and informative guidance to supplement the Members' Code of Conduct in relation to planning functions.
  - 3.5 Members will be aware that planning is a very emotive subject and it is vital that members of the public can see that decisions are being made in an open and transparent manner for justifiable planning reasons.
  - 3.6 It is recommended that the name of the guidance is changed to 'Planning Good Practice for Members Guidance'; this is to avoid any confusion with the Members' Code of Conduct which continues to apply to planning matters.
  - 3.7 A draft index to the 'Planning Good Practice for Members Guidance' is provided at **Appendix A**. Members are invited to contact the Deputy Monitoring Officer with any issues or points Members would like to see included in the Guidance. The

Deputy Monitoring Officer will also contact the Standards Committee to seek their views on matters to be included in the Guidance.

3.8 The draft Guidance will be presented to Standards Committee for a decision on adoption.

4. **Implications**

4.1 **Financial Implications** – None arising directly from the report.

4.2 **Legal Implications** – None.

4.3 **Contribution to Council Priorities** – Not applicable.

4.4 **Risk Management** – Not applicable.

4.5 **Equality Analysis** – Not applicable.

5. **Consultations with Others** – None.

6. **Access to Information: Background Documents** – Not applicable.

7. **Author of the Report** – Lisa Lord, Solicitor (Deputy Monitoring Officer); telephone 07701 399979; e-mail: LLord@cravendc.gov.uk.

8. **Appendices** –  
Appendix A            Draft Index