

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Planning Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 April 2016
Subject:	Review of Protocol for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process
Report of:	Lin O'Brien, Democratic Services Group Manager
Corporate Lead:	Sara Freckleton, Borough Solicitor
Lead Member:	Councillors D M M Davies, Lead Member for Built Environment R J E Vines, Leader of the Council
Number of Appendices:	None

Executive Summary:

To seek nominations to serve on a joint Standards and Planning Committee Working Group to review the Protocol for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process as required by the Council decision made on 14 April 2015 and the decision of the Standards Committee on 21 March 2016.

Recommendation:

To AGREE the Members of the Planning Committee to serve on the re-established Joint Standards and Planning Working Group to review the Protocol for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process, as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report, following its operation for 12 months to assess how it has worked and whether any further amendment is necessary.

Reasons for Recommendation:

To ensure that the Protocol for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process is reviewed in accordance with the Council's decision on 14 April 2015.

Resource Implications:

Officer and Member resources will be required to undertake the review.

Legal Implications:

None specifically in relation to this report.

Risk Management Implications:

None in relation to this report.

Performance Management Follow-up:

Upon completion of the review a revised Protocol will be submitted to Council for approval.

Environmental Implications:

None.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 At its meeting on 14 April 2015 the Council considered the revised Protocol for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process and resolved that the Protocol be adopted, with a review after 12 months. A mechanism to undertake this further review is proposed in Paragraph 2 set out below.

2.0 REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL FOR COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

2.1 The initial review was undertaken by a joint Working Group made up of four Members of the Planning Committee and four Members of the Standards Committee. This mechanism worked extremely well and it is therefore suggested that a similar arrangement be put in place to examine how the new Protocol has worked after being in operation for 12 months and whether any further amendments are required.

2.2 At its meeting on 21 March 2016, the Standards Committee nominated representatives as follows:

Tewkesbury Borough Councillors Mike Dean and Philip Surman; Parish representative, Jeremy Horsfall; and Independent Person, Martin Jauch.

2.3 Previously the representatives from the Planning Committee were Councillors Derek Davies, John Evetts, Jim Mason and Mrs Jude Perez and it is suggested, for consistency, that those Members remaining on the Planning Committee may wish to put themselves forward to serve on the Group. In respect of Jude Perez, as she is no longer a Member of the Council, there would be a vacancy to fill. With this in mind, it would be the suggestion that the Committee's representatives on the Working Group be as follows:

Councillors Derek Davies, John Evetts and Jim Mason with one vacancy to be filled by the Committee.

2.4 It is anticipated that no more than two meetings of the Group would be required and Officer support would be provided by the legal and planning sections.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 None.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 A revised Protocol will be subject to Member consultation.

5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

5.1 Tewkesbury Borough Council Code of Members' Conduct (adopted 26 June 2012 taking effect 1 July 2012).

6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

6.1 None.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

7.1 The review will involve Officer/Member resources.

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

8.1 None.

9.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

9.1 None.

10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

10.1 Council on 14 April 2015 and Standards Committee on 21 March 2016.

Background Papers: None

Contact Officer: Lin O'Brien, Democratic Services Group Manager
01684 272020. lin.obrien@teWKesbury.gov.uk

Appendices: None