

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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| Report to: | Standards Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 21 March 2016 |
| Subject: | Review of Protocol for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process |
| Report of: | Lin O'Brien, Deputy Monitoring Officer |
| Corporate Lead: | Sara Freckleton, Monitoring Officer |
| Number of Appendices: | None. |

Executive Summary:

At its meeting on 31 March 2014, in accordance with its Work Programme, the Standards Committee agreed the process for reviewing the Council's Protocol for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process and a joint Working Group was established made up of Members from both the Standards and Planning Committees. Subsequently the Protocol was reviewed and the revised version was agreed by Council at its meeting on 14 April 2015. It was also agreed that a review of the revised Protocol should take place after 12 months to establish how it had worked and whether any further amendment was required. The Committee is now asked to agree the mechanism for this review to take place.

Recommendation:

That a joint Standards and Planning Working Group be re-established, as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report, to review the Protocol for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process 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.

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:

The review will be undertaken and any amendments required made to the Protocol.

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. The Planning Committee will be asked to nominate representatives at its next meeting and the Standards Committee is now asked to put forward its representatives should the Committee agree that this is the most appropriate mechanism for the review to be undertaken.

Previously the representatives were Councillors Brian Calway and Mike Dean, Independent Person, Mr Martin Jauch, and Parish Representative, Mr Jeremy Horsfall and it is suggested for consistency that those Members remaining on the Standards Committee may wish to put themselves forward to serve on the Group. In respect of Councillor Calway, his Membership was as Chair of the Standards Committee, and therefore his place could be taken by the current Chair, Councillor Philip Surman. It would therefore be the proposal that the Committee's representatives on the Working Group would be as follows:

Councillors Mike Dean and Philip Surman, Independent Person, Mr Martin Jauch, and Parish Representative, Mr Jeremy Horsfall.

2.2 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 Consultation will be undertaken to review the Protocol.

5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

5.1 None.

6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

6.1 None.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

7.1 None.

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.

Background Papers: None.

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Appendices: None.