

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

<b>Open</b>		Would any decisions proposed :		
<b>Any especially affected Wards</b>	Operational	Need to be recommendations to Council		YES
Lead Member: Cllr Richard Blunt E-mail: cllr.richard.blunt@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Cabinet Members consulted:		
		Other Members consulted: Cllr Mrs V M Spikings		
Lead Officer: Emma Duncan E-mail: emma.duncan@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial: 616327		Other Officers consulted: Executive Director (Planning and Environment), Assistant Director – Environment & Planning		
Financial Implications NO	Policy/Personnel Implications NO	Statutory Implications (incl S.17) YES	Equal Impact Assessment YES	Risk Management Implications NO

Date of meeting: 1 August 2017

### REVISIONS TO THE MEMBER CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR PLANNING

<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>The report recommends further amendments to the Members Code of Good Practice for Planning to reflect current and best practice.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p><b>That the revised Code of Practice be adopted.</b></p> <p><b>Reason for Decision</b></p> <p>To ensure the best practice in the planning process.</p>
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#### 1 Background

- 1.1 The Council has a number of documents which regulate the conduct of council business, officers and elected members.
- 1.2 As a matter of good practice these are kept under review and require updating from time to time.

#### 2 Proposed changes

- 2.1 Changes have been made to the Decision Making Process and Training of Members section of the report. These have been highlighted in the attached revised Code.

2.2 There are few proposed changes to the Code and these are:

- a) In the Site Visits by Members section (section 8), changing the emphasis to “Do stay with the rest of the Members...” rather than “Do try to stay with the rest of the Members...”
- b) In section 9.3 adding “Do not engage in social media or electronic communications, passing or receiving notes during the meeting.”
- c) In section 10 adding “Further training during the course of the year relating to planning will be provided. Members shall attend this as persistent failure to attend will be referred to the Monitoring Officer for action and may lead to suspension of membership from the Planning Committee.”

### **3 Policy Implications**

3.1 None

### **4 Financial Implications**

4.1 None

### **5 Statutory Implications**

5.1 Yes – the Code reflects the legislative provisions under the Localism Act.