

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1 MARCH 2006

PROTOCOL FOR MEMBER PLANNING SITE VISITS

Report from: Peter Holland, Committee Co-ordinator

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1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This committee prepared the draft planning code of conduct which was subsequently adopted by Full Council. Subsequently it has been felt appropriate to expand the guidance for member site visits. A draft protocol was considered by the Development Control Committee on 24 January 2006. It is appropriate for this committee to comment before the protocol is formally adopted by Council.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the committee endorses the protocol for members site visits with the addition that one member at the site visit be nominated as a reporting member to the committee of key issues arising from the visit.

3 DECISION ISSUES

- 3.1 The constitution gives the Standards Committee a key role in ensuring good practice across the authority.

4 THE PROTOCOL FOR MEMBER PLANNING SITE VISITS

- 4.1 A copy of the protocol is appended to this report. Overall the proposals set out in the procedure are to be welcomed and will prove a useful supplement to the Planning Code of Conduct. It is clear site visits are for fact finding and should not be used by members to discuss the merits of a proposal. However, in the event that all members of the committee are unable to attend the planning site visit one member who attended might be nominated to report back on key site specific issues to ensure all members are appraised of these on an even footing.
- 4.2 Subject to the above, the protocol is recommended for endorsement.

5 LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications. When adopted, the protocol for members site visits will form part of a local protocol rather than being incorporated within the member code of conduct and will be managed and enforced locally.

Background Papers

None.

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