

ITEM NO.	
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TITLE	: Probity in Planning – Code of Conduct		
TO / ON	: Planning Control Committee	20th February 2003	
	: Standards Committee	13th March 2003	
	: Council	9th April 2003	
BY	: Monitoring Officer		
STATUS	: FOR PUBLICATION		

1.0 TYPE OF DECISION

1.1 What type of decision is to be taken:-

EXECUTIVE DECISION		COUNCIL DECISION	
Key		Non Key	YES

1.2 If a key decision, has it been included in the Forward Plan

Inclusion in Forward Plan	N/A	Date of Plan	
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2.0 SUMMARY

The Probity in Planning – Code of Conduct document has been updated in order to make it compatible with the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Independent and other voting representatives and to acknowledge the position of Area Boards.

3.0 OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDED OPTIONS (with reasons)

Members are invited to comment on the draft protocol prior to its submission to Council for approval.

4.0 THIS REPORT HAS THE FOLLOWING IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Aims	The protocol provides guidance to Members on the planning process and is a means through which public confidence in Council services is maintained and improved.		
Policy Framework	The procedure will support the Council’s planning process and the Council’s Code of Conduct.		
Statement by Monitoring Officer	The Code is designed to regulate the performance of the Council’s planning function.		
Statement by Director of Finance and E-Government	There are no financial implications arising from this report.		
Human Resource IT/Land and Property Implications	None as a result of this report.		
Wards/Area Boards affected	None		
Scrutiny Panel's Interest	None		
Consultations	The revised Code reflects deliberations which have taken place with Area Board chairs.		
Call-in	N/A		
Briefings	Executive Members/ Chair		Chief Executive

5.0 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 The Planning Code of Conduct is in need of revision in order to bring it into line with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, Independent and other voting representatives and to reflect the position of Area Boards in the planning process. .

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The current Planning Code of Conduct was approved by Council at its meeting on 31st March 2001 for the remainder of that municipal year. At the meeting, it was agreed that Ward Councillors should be permitted to speak on applications affecting their Ward at meetings of the Planning Control Committee and that the role of Area Boards in the planning process should be looked at.
- 6.2 The Area Board Chairs agreed a protocol for Area Board involvement in planning issues and this has been incorporated in the revised Code for approval.
- 6.3 In addition, the Code has been changed to ensure that it is compatible with the Council's Code of Conduct which was approved by the Council on 10th April, 2002.
- 6.4 Major changes to the Planning Code have been set out in bold/italic type for ease of reference.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The revised Planning Code will be submitted to the meeting of Council on 9th April 2003 for approval.

JAYNE HAMMOND
Monitoring Officer

Background documents:

Probity in Planning Code of Conduct approved by Council on 31 January 2001.

Relevant minutes of Council, Planning Control Committee, Standards Committee and Area Board Chairs.

Council Code of Conduct for Members, Independent and other Voting Members.

For further information on the details of this report, please contact:

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