

PLANNING COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Planning Committee held on
Tuesday, 10 December 2024

(Present) **Councillor D Long (Chair)**
Councillors CD Banks, Bowden, Case, Collier, Gomez-Aspron MBE,
Hodkinson, Hooton, Laird, McCauley, Murphy MBE, Pearl and
Tasker

(Not Present) **Councillors Preston and van der Burg**

36. REVISED PROTOCOL FOR COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS DEALING WITH PLANNING MATTERS AND RELATED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

On 5 November 2024, a report was presented to Planning Committee recommending amendments to the Protocol for Councillors and Officers Dealing with Planning Matters in accordance with the revisions made to the Code.

During consideration of the Protocol at this meeting, it had been proposed that a further reason for the inclusion of wording indicating that members should not participate in social media, or other electronic communications, during Committee meeting proceedings, was that it would give the impression of inattention.

In addition, concern was raised that, in relation to the issue of pre-determination, specific reference to social media, and the posting of comments by members, might inadvertently operate to prevent members from expressing any opinion on a planning application prior to its consideration by Planning Committee. Reference was also made to the correct paragraph headings under which the proposed revisions should be located.

The Principal Solicitor, Planning and Regeneration presented the revised Protocol for Councillors and Officers Dealing with Planning Matters advising that the report sought the further views of Planning Committee.

The Protocol for Councillors and Officers Dealing with Planning Matters had been appended to the report at Appendix 1. Revisions, which took into account the comments and suggestions of Planning Committee members at its meeting held on 5 November 2024, had been made at paragraphs 4.3 and 17.5 of the Planning Protocol and highlighted in red text.

The report advised that agreed comments of the Planning Committee and those of the Standards Committee, following its meeting of 14 January 2025, would be considered by Council at its meeting on 15 January 2025, prior to its adoption of an updated Protocol.

* **Resolved that the Protocol for Councillors and Officers Dealing with Planning Matters and Related Constitutional Changes be agreed and approved without comment.**