

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:**                 **MONDAY, 7 APRIL 2014**

**REPORT BY:**         **MONITORING OFFICER**

**SUBJECT:**           **REVIEW OF PLANNING CODE OF PRACTICE -  
UPDATE**

**1.00   PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01   To update the Standards Committee on the timescale for reviewing Flintshire's Planning Code of Practice.

**2.00   BACKGROUND**

2.01   The Nolan Committee on Standards on Public Life made recommendations that led to the new ethical framework for Members introduced by the Local Government Act 2000. One recommendation of the Nolan Committee that did not lead to legislation was for planning authorities to have their own local code of conduct.

2.02   In the early years of Flintshire a working group of members was formed who agreed the wording of Flintshire's Planning Code. The Code forms part of the Council's Constitution. From time to time the Planning Code has been amended to reflect changes in practice such as allowing third parties to address the Planning Committee.

2.03   The Constitution Committee is currently in the second year of a three year programme of reviewing all parts of the Council's Constitution. Before the Constitution Committee can consider changes to the Planning Code, such changes will need to be considered by the Council's Planning Strategy Group and by the Standards Committee.

2.04   The Welsh Government has recently published its draft Planning Bill. Consultation on the Planning Bill ended on 26 February 2014.

**3.00   CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01   Following consultation with the Head of Planning it is considered that the Planning Bill is unlikely to become law until some time in 2015. It has therefore been agreed to proceed with a review of Flintshire's Planning Code in advance of any such legislation.

3.02   The Democracy and Governance Manager has compared Flintshire's Planning Code with those for neighbouring authorities and submitted

to the Head of Planning suggested changes to the existing Flintshire Code.

- 3.03 Once the Planning Department has considered changes to the Code it is intended to submit a report to the Planning Strategy Group and then to the July meeting of the Standards Committee.

**4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 For the Committee to note the proposed timescale for reviewing the Flintshire Planning Code.

**5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 None as a result of this report.

**6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 None as a result of this report.

**7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 None as a result of this report.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.01 None as a result of this report.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.01 None as a result of this report.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

- 10.01 None as a result of this report.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

- 11.01 None as a result of this report.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

None

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Report on the Planning Bill for Wales submitted to the Planning Strategy Group on 16 January 2014

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