

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE 21 NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT BY THE MONITORING OFFICER AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND BOROUGH DEVELOPMENT

COUNCILLOR AND OFFICER COMBINED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DEALING WITH PLANNING MATTERS

This joint Code promotes and supports high standards of conduct from councillors and officers. It provides information and practical advice on conduct whilst dealing with planning matters.

If endorsed, Full Council will be asked to adopt it.

FOR DECISION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Committee is requested to:

- a. endorse the Combined Code of Conduct for dealing with Planning Matters in Appendix A; and
- b. ask Full Council to adopt the Code into Part 5 (Codes and Protocols) of the Council's Constitution.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council recognises the need to attain the highest ethical standards in its governance and management. This means that the Council expects councillors and officers to display the highest standards of conduct over and above adherence to the seven Nolan principles of conduct in public life.
- 2.2 The Code of Conduct reflects this ethos and sets out the general principles of behaviour which, when dealing with planning matters, all councillors and officers must conform to.
- 2.3 The Code is consistent with advice in the Local Government Association's revised guidance note on good planning practice for councillors and officers dealing with planning matters *Probity in Planning: The Role of Councillors and Officers* (May 2009).

3. PURPOSE

- 3.1 For the first time, the new Code of Conduct brings together a complete document outlining the ways in which the Council will ensure the highest ethical standards in governance and management in relation to planning.
- 3.2 Having an up-to-date Code:
- ensures there are no grounds for suggesting that a planning decision has been biased, partial or not well founded in any way;
 - promotes and supports high standards of conduct;
 - provides councillors with information and practical advice to assist in dealing with planning matters;
 - provides a useful reference point for councillors;
 - supports the Council in being transparent; and
 - aids wider understanding about the way the Council works.

4. CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 The Lead Member for Streets, Planning and Transport and Chairman of the Planning Committee have been consulted. Rather than a separate code for councillors and reference to planning matters in the Code of Conduct for Employees, they requested a combined document which can be referenced within the Members' Code of Conduct and the Code of Conduct for Employees.
- 4.2 Whilst there is no specific community consultation required, previous comments from residents and others using the planning system has helped inform the new code.

5. FINANCIAL, EQUALITIES AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Adoption of such a code reduces the reputational risk of suggestions that a planning decision has been biased, partial or not well founded in any way.
- 5.2 There are no specific financial or equalities implications.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a. endorse the combined Code of Conduct for Dealing with Planning Matters in Appendix A; and
 - b. recommend it to Full Council for inclusion in Part 5 of the Constitution.

LeVerne Parker
Monitoring Officer

Graham Stallwood
Executive Director, Planning and Borough Development

Background papers:

Local Government Association and Planning Advisory Service:

Probity in Planning

<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/probity-planning-councill-d92.pdf>

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