

Report of the Chairman on the work of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee

The Members' Code of Conduct Committee has met once since the last Council meeting, on 27 November 2019, and considered the following items of business.

1. Review of the Planning Code

- 1.1 The Committee considered a revised Planning Code and suggested further changes to the Code.
- 1.2 The Committee agreed that the Head of Corporate Governance should report back to the next meeting with the draft amended Code and that training be arranged for all members on the need to align their decision making with planning policies.

2. Investigation report

- 2.1 The Committee considered a report from an independent investigator following a complaint against a councillor.
- 2.2 The investigation concluded that there had been no breach of the Code of Conduct.
- 2.3 The investigator made a number of recommendations about the way applications are handled at Planning Committee meetings. The Committee unanimously accepted the recommendations and agreed:
 - Mandatory training for all members on what is and what is not acceptable lobbying practice to be arranged by February 2020.
 - The Head of Corporate Governance and the Chairman of the Planning Committee will identify a suitable training opportunity as recommended by the investigator
 - The Head of Corporate Governance to identify a suitable review for the Planning Committee (such as the Local Government Association Planning Advisory Service) to consider the Planning Committee process in Spelthorne and report back on their findings.
 - The Head of Corporate Governance refers the issue detailed in paragraph 8.1.5 of the exempt investigator's report to the Group Leader for action.

Murray Litvak

Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee

19 December 2019