

**Blaby District Council
Council**

Date of Meeting	16 July 2024
Title of Report	Constitutional Amendments – Planning Code of Good Practice. This is not a Key Decision and is not on the Forward Plan
Lead Member	Cllr. Terry Richardson - Leader of the Council
Report Author	Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Strategic Themes	All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To seek approval for the proposed amendments to the Constitution to bring it in line with current practice.

2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 That the Planning Code of Good Practice at Part 5, Section 2 of the Constitution be adopted.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 The Council must ensure that it has an up-to-date and current Constitution that accurately reflects the way that the Council operates.

4. Matters to consider

- 4.1 To ensure the Constitution accurately reflects the way the Council operates, some sections need to be reviewed and amended.

The Council's current "Planning Code of Good Practice and Guidance on Lobbying" is based on the Model Member's Planning Code produced by Lawyers in Local Government (LLG).

The LLG Planning Code of Good Practice was first published in 2003 in response to a series of successful court challenges concerning local planning authorities and their Members' Conduct of Conduct and/or conflicts of interests. It replaced several individual and sometimes unsystematic approaches that existed in individual councils at that time. It was reviewed in 2007 and updated in 2014. In 2017 the UK Supreme Court endorsed its use.

The Model Planning Code of Good Practice has now become a central piece of guidance used by local authorities to give their members and others advice to ensure fairness and legality.

This refreshed version will help in having clarified some of the points concerning consistency and reasoning in decision making and underscores the potential impact of social media interactions upon proceedings.

Some minor localised changes were made to this version to ensure that it complements the Council's current Code of Conduct and Planning Committee.

4.2 Proposal(s)

That the Members Planning Code of Good Practice be adopted.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

- Executive Director - Communities & Monitoring Officer
- Planning & Strategic Growth Group Manager
- Development Services Manager
- Development Services Team Leader

4.4 Significant Issues

As this is an amendment to the Constitution 2/3 of those attending the Council meeting must vote for the amendment for this decision to be approved and the changes made.

5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

5.1 There are no cost implications as a result of this report.

6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

6.1 None

7. Other options considered

7.1 No other options are considered.

8. Environmental impact

8.1 None

9. Other significant issues

9.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

9.2 Significant issues relating to Governance have been addressed at paragraph 4.4.

10. Appendix

10.1 Appendix A - Part 5, Section 2 - Planning Code of Good Practice.

11. Background paper(s)

11.1 None

12. Report author's contact details

Sandeep Tiensa Senior Democratic Services Officer
Sandeep.tiensa@blaby.gov.uk 0116 272 7640