

Subject: Amendment to the Members
Planning Code of Good Practice

Status: For Publication

Report to: The Cabinet

Date: 18th October 2006

Report of:
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Portfolio

Holder: Regeneration

Key Decision: No

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval of an amendment to the Members' Planning Code of Good Practice.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priorities:

- *Finance and Risk Management – through putting in place policies and procedures to address identified risk exposures.*

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- By not approving the amendment to the Members' Planning Code of Good Practice there could be risk to the Council in terms of the potential for challenge.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 It is in the Councils interest that the Members' Planning Code of Good Practice be amended to provide clarity on the reasons by which Members' can request Planning Applications to be considered by the Development Control Committee.

4.2 The proposed amendment will ensure that the Councillor of the relevant ward in which the development is located requests in writing, stating clear and articulate planning reasons (within 14 days of being informed that the application has been submitted) that it should be determined at Committee. A copy of the Code is set out in Appendix A and the amendments are highlighted for Members' consideration.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

5.1 No specific comments.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

6.1 It is recommended that the Council approves the amendment to ensure transparency in the planning process so that planning decisions are made openly, impartially, with sound judgement and for justifiable planning reasons.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

7.1 No specific comments.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The amendment to the Code is required by the Council to reduce risks and provide clarity

9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1 That the Cabinet approves the amendment to the Planning Code of Good Practice.

9.2 That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be requested to review the Members' Planning Code of Good Practice and a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 Portfolio Holder, Chair of Development Control

Contact Officer	
Name	Linda Fisher
Position	Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Service / Team	Legal and Democratic Services
Telephone	01706 242447
Email address	lindafisher@rossendalebc.gov.uk

No background papers