

REVIEW OF PLANNING CODE OF CONDUCT

LEAD OFFICER: Tony Pomfret – Development Services Manager
REPORT AUTHOR: Martin Jepson – Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Summary: To review the Copeland Borough Councils' Planning Code of Conduct.

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| Recommendation: The Planning Code of Conduct for Copeland Borough Council be amended as shown. |
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Impact on delivering Corporate Plan objectives: None

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): None

Financial and human resource implications: None.

Project & Risk Management: N/A

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** No
- **Ward:** No

Other Ward Implications: No

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The first edition of the Planning Code of Conduct for Copeland Borough Council was approved by Council on the 5th March 2002. As part of the commitment of the Council to regularly review its policies and procedures a review of the Code has now taken place.

2. FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS SINCE MARCH 2002

2.1 It should be noted that the National Code of Local Government Conduct has now been replaced by the Member Code of Conduct which is reproduced in the Members Constitution. The Member Code of Conduct provides for the declaration of personal or prejudicial interests rather than pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests and has revised the procedure for obtaining dispensations to speak on certain matters particularly in relation to BNF Group.

2.2 The revised Planning Code of Conduct takes this in account and emphasises that where a Member has a prejudicial interest in a matter they should declare this and withdraw from the meeting. Some examples of circumstances where interests should be declared are set out at paragraph 3.4 of the draft.

2.3 In the revised draft Members are now specifically asked to submit copies of lobbying material to the Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services. The code also takes into account revised procedures for dealing with comments, compliments and complaints and the current Scheme of Delegation.

3 CONCLUSION

3.1 Members are asked to consider the attached draft, advise of any amendments they wish to make to the draft and submit the same to Council for approval.

List of Appendices: Planning Code of Conduct

List of Background Documents: Nil

**List of Consultees:
Chairman of Planning Panel,
Development Services Manager**