

Committee/Date:	Council 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2015
Report Title:	<b>Revised Terms of Reference for Planning Committee</b>
Directorate:	Regeneration and Growth
Contact Details	David Scourfield Acting Assistant Director, Planning
Wards affected:	All
Public Access	Open
Appendices	Appendix 1: Terms of Reference, Planning Committee Appendix 2: Report to Audit & Governance Committee

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Planning Code Of Practice has recently been amended to reflect changes to the way in which the pre-application process is carried out for major regenerations schemes. This change will allow developer presentations to the planning committee on major schemes above a certain threshold and to effect this change an amendment to the Committee's Terms of Reference is necessary.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1. To adopt the revised Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee at Appendix 1

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. At its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 the Council's Audit and Governance Committee agreed changes to the Planning Code of Practice in order to allow developers to present their pre-application planning schemes to members of the Planning Committee at scheduled meetings of the Committee.. The revised Code details the way in which presentations will be conducted at Planning Committee and emphasises that members can only ask factual questions and not express opinions on the scheme itself.

### **3. PROPOSAL**

3.1. The Terms of Reference of the Planning Committee need to be altered to reflect the changes to the pre-application planning process as contained in the recently amended Planning Code of Practice.

3.2. Proposed Paragraph 6 of the revised Terms of Reference introduces the new power for Planning Committee to hear pre-application presentations and sets a threshold for the size of schemes to be permitted to present to Planning Committee. This threshold is the same as that presented in the revised Planning Code of Conduct (Para 3.9 of the Code) and allows for presentations on pre-application regeneration schemes where those schemes contain:

100 or more residential units and/or

1000 sq m of commercial floorspace

This will be at the discretion of Head of Development Management and Building Control where such a presentation would be of benefit to the Planning Committee taking into consideration the regeneration significance of the scheme.

### **4. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES (AND OTHER NATIONAL OR LOCAL POLICIES OR STRATEGIES)**

4.1 There are not direct implications from this proposal, which will help support the Council's democratic function and regeneration priorities.

### **5. CONSULTATION**

6.1 No specific community consultation is required in relation to this proposal .

### **6 IMPLICATIONS**

#### **6.1 Finance, Value for Money and Risk**

6.1.1 There are no specific financial implications in relation to this proposal

#### **6.2 Legal**

6.2.1 The Terms of References of the Planning Committee form part of the Constitution and as such any alteration needs to be approved by Full Council. Members of the Planning Committee can be involved with development schemes pre-application provided they do not express an opinion on the scheme that

could suggest they have pre-determined the application and provided their minds are kept open at all times.

**6.3 Equalities and Diversity**

6.3.1 No direct implications

**6.4 Sustainability (including climate change, health, crime and disorder)**

6.4.1 No direct implications identified

**6.5 Council Infrastructure (e.g. human resources, accommodation or IT issues)**

6.5.1 No direct implications identified