HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
                   26 March 2014

From: Director of Corporate Services

Subject: **LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS DEALING WITH PLANNING MATTERS**

                                                                              All Wards

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1.0   BACKGROUND:

1.1   The Council's constitution contains a Local Code of Conduct for Members and Officers dealing with planning matters. This Local Code supplements the Council's Code of Member Conduct which is of general application. As the name suggests, the Planning Code deals specifically with planning related matters.

1.2   In October 2013 the Committee recommended amendments to the Local Code based on advice in "Probity in Planning", guidance published by the Local Government Association.

1.3   This report suggests a further amendment to the Local Code.

2.0   SUGGESTED CHANGE:

2.1   In October 2013 the Committee amended paragraph 2.11 of the Local Code. This had previously required Members to identify their own planning applications when submitted to the Council. The amendment expanded this to include planning applications made by "relatives" of Members. No definition of "relative" was included because there is no definition in "Probity in Planning". However, in practice, Members wish to know what a "relative" covers and it is therefore recommended that a definitive list of relatives be included in paragraph 2.11.

2.2   It is suggested that the following list of close relatives may be sufficient:-

        Current spouses or partners of the Member and parents or step-parents, children or step-children, grandparents or grandchildren, siblings or step-siblings of the Member or their current spouse or partner.

3.0   RECOMMENDATION:

3.1   It is recommended that the Committee recommend Council to amend paragraph 2.11 of the Local Planning Code by including the definition of relative contained in paragraph 2.2 of this report.

MARTYN RICHARDS