

**(AGS.34)
Decisions to be considered by
Full Council on 8 April 2014**

Minutes of the meeting of the AUDIT,
GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS
COMMITTEE held at 9.30am on Wednesday
26 March 2014 at the Civic Centre, Stone
Cross, Northallerton

Present

Councillor J N Smith (In the Chair)

Councillor D E Adamson
Mrs C S Cookman

Councillor R W Hudson
M Rigby

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G W Dadd and Mrs B S Fortune)

AGS.34

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

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report regarding a Local Code of Conduct for Members and Officers dealing with Planning Matters. This Local Code supplemented the Council's Code of Member Conduct which was of general application and the Planning Code dealt specifically with planning related matters. 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. This report suggested a further amendment to the Local Code.

The Committee amended paragraph 2.11 of the Local Code, which 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 was no definition in "Probity in Planning". However, in practice, Members wished to know what a "relative" covered and it was therefore recommended that a definitive list of relatives be included in paragraph 2.11.

It was suggested that the following list of close relatives might 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.

Alternative options considered:

None

The reason for the decision:

To provide a definition of “relative” as described in the Local Code.

THE DECISION:

To recommend to Council that paragraph 2.11 of the Local Planning Code be amended by including the definition of relative as detailed above.

The meeting closed at 10.20am

Chairman of the Committee