

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

18 NOVEMBER 2010

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

#### PLANNING CODE OF PRACTICE

#### 1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 The report presents an amended Code of Practice for the Development Control Committee. Committee is requested to consider and approve the Code.

#### 2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

- 2.1 The Corporate Improvement Plan states inter alia that "it is essential that Members and officers have a clear vision for the Council to achieve and also share the values that influence the way in which we work. In this way we can establish a clear direction and priorities. We have also established values for ourselves to clarify what we stand for. As Elected Members and employees of Bridgend County Borough Council, we are the FACE of the Council and should always be:

Fair - taking into account everyone's need and circumstances

Ambitious - always trying to improve what we do and aiming for excellence

Customer focused - remembering that we are here to serve our local communities

Efficient - delivering effective serves that are value for money."

- 2.2 The amended Code will assist the Development Control Committee in having a clear direction in respect of its work and reinforces the values Members and Officers stand for in seeking to improve quality of life for all, looking after our environment, seeking to increase prosperity, have safer communities, improving the health of the population and have a more inclusive County Borough.

#### 3. Background.

- 3.1 The first Planning Code of Practice for the Development Control Committee was approved in March 2009. In view of the experience gained since that it is considered necessary to amend the Code of Practice.

#### 4. Current situation / proposal.

The proposed Code of Practice is fully detailed as **Appendix 1** (red indicates new and blue indicates deletion) to this report. The proposal involves a change to paragraph 11.1, the deletion of paragraph 11.4 and new paragraph 12.4. Most of the other alterations are very minor.

11.1 Allows for a cooling off period if Members are minded to take a decision contrary to officer's advice in line with recommendation 9 of the GVA Grimley Study to Examine the Planning Application Process in Wales, commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government.

11.4 This dealt with deferment of a decision contrary to officer advice but would be replaced by amended 11.1.

12.4 Encourages Members of the Development Control Committee not to make representations at appeal that are contrary to the decision of Committee unless the Member had expressed contrary views at the time the decision was made.

**5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.**

**5.1** The Code will assist the Development Control Committee in the performance of its duties.

**6. Equalities Implications.**

**6.1** The Corporate Equalities Toolkit has been applied to the report and it is not considered that the amendment to the code of practice has an equalities implication.

**7. Financial Implications.**

**7.1** The only financial implications would be the cost of Member training. This is largely provided in house with any costs being absorbed within existing budgets. If specialist training were to be required, this would be the subject of a bid against the centrally held budget for Members' training.

**8. Recommendation.**

That Committee approves the amended Planning Code of Practice attached to this report.

**Louise Fradd**  
**Corporate Director - Communities**  
**12 November 2010**

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**Background documents** Equalities Impact Screening