Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 7**

16 December 2025

Review of Planning Good Practice Guide

Purpose of the Report

1. To report the outcome of a review of the Planning Good Practice Guide.

Recommendation

2. That Members adopt the revised Planning Good Practice Guide **attached**.

Strategic Framework

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and support the strategic planning framework:

    - Corporate Plan Objective 23:
      Provide an efficient development management service that supports appropriate opportunities for economic and community development whilst helping to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park, including ensuring that 65% of minor and 80% of 'other' planning applications are determined within eight weeks and at least 80% of applicants are satisfied with the service provided.

Background

4. The Planning Good Practice Guide provides guidance to Members on their role in the planning process. It applies when considering planning applications, enforcement matters and policy issues. That includes Committee meetings, site visits and meetings with officers or members of the public.

5. In 2020 a Member-led working group reviewed the efficiency and effectiveness of Planning Committee arrangements. The conclusion of the review was that the Planning Committee was generally functioning well, but a number of changes should be made to improve its operation. Some of these changes - including to the system of deferrals (reference back), and protocols for Committee site visits - were incorporated into the current Planning Good Practice Guide.

Consideration

6. Since the last review, the Planning Committee has continued to operate well, and the changes have been largely effective.

7. Officers have considered the current Planning Advisory Service (PAS) guidance on Probity in Planning and the 2024 Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) Model Planning Code, which incorporate recent case law and good practice. A handful of minor updates to the current guide are recommended (see tracked changes in the Appendix). These reflect recent changes to the Member Code of Conduct in relation to prejudicial interests and in response to increased use of social media.

Financial Implications

8. None.

Legal Implications

9. None.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

10. None.

Conclusion

11. Officers have undertaken a light touch review of the Planning Good Practice Guide, and a number of minor updates are recommended. These are shown as track changes on the **Appendix.**

Richard Graham
Head of Development Management

Background Papers:
Probity in Planning / Planning Committee Protocols – PAS/LGA
Model Planning Code – Lawyers in Local Government [2024]