



REPORT TO THE MEETING OF CABINET – 16 OCTOBER 2024

PORTFOLIO: STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DEPUTY LEADER – CLLR W GIBSON

REPORT FROM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CLIMATE AND GROWTH

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REFORMS TO THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ensure that the Cabinet is aware of the proposed reforms to the national planning policy framework (NPPF) and other changes to the planning system, which will have, if adopted by the Government potential implications on plan-making and on the decisions taken on planning applications.

2 LINKS TO COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The proposals in the NPPF consultation are wide ranging and touch upon all the different council priorities and objectives.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Cabinet notes the [Portfolio Holder decision](#) setting out a response to the consultation on proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system

4 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has since 2012 provided national policy upon which local plans are based. It is also a significant material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications. It was last updated in December 2023 by the previous government.

4.2 On 30 July 2024 the Government published a consultation on its proposed approach to revising the National Planning Policy Framework. The consultation also seeks views on wider policy proposals in relation to increasing planning fees, local plan intervention criteria and thresholds for certain nationally significant infrastructure projects. The full details of the proposals are set out at: [Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system)

4.3 The consultation period was from 30 July 2024 until 24 September 2024, occurring over the summer period. A response to the consultation was therefore issued via a [Portfolio Holder decision](#) on 20 September 2024.

5 RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 At this time, the proposals that were set out in the NPPF consultation published on 30 July are just proposals. Until the final NPPF is published, which is expected towards the end of the year, we will not know which proposals the government will choose to take forward, or not, and whether any of the proposals will be amended.

5.2 Once the final NPPF is published we will undertake a full risk assessment to understand its implications for the Council as the Local Planning Authority and more broadly.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The NPPF sets out proposed amendments related to planning fees to secure cost recovery. There is the potential for this to improve the financial sustainability of the development management service. If those proposals are taken forward by the government, then the implications of this will be reflected in future year budgets.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report, at this time. However, once the final NPPF is published the full risk assessment may identify legal risks to the Council which will be identified and report to Members as appropriate.

8 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

9 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An equality impact assessment has not been completed as no decision is being made.



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Background Papers:-

[Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system](#)

[Draft Revised National Planning Policy Framework August 2024](#)

[Portfolio Holder Decision](#)

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