

Report to Planning Committee 7th November 2017

Government Consultation on “Planning for the right homes in the right places”

Purpose of the Report

To provide the Planning Committee with the opportunity to pass comments to Cabinet on an appropriate response to the Government Consultation ‘Planning the right homes in the right places’

Recommendation

It is being recommended to Cabinet that the Council respond to the Consultation in the manner as set out in the proforma attached as Appendix 1 to this report

Reasons:

The Council has the opportunity to respond to this consultation. An appropriate response is set out in the Appendix. The Planning Committee’s views will be reported to Cabinet when it considers this matter at its meeting on the 8th November.

1. Background

Following on from the White Paper Fixing the Broken Housing Market published earlier this year the Government is now consulting on further measures set out in the White Paper to boost housing supply in England. Consultations are normally responded to by Executive Directors in accordance with the Council’s Constitution, but in this case requests have been received for members to have the opportunity to inform a response to this consultation so the matter is being brought to Cabinet. Any response to the consultation has to be submitted by 2345hrs on the 9th November using a proforma.

2. Issues

The consultation sets out a number of proposals to reform the planning system to increase the supply of new homes and increase local authority capacity to manage growth. Proposals include:-

- a standard method for calculating local authorities’ housing need
- how neighbourhood planning groups can have greater certainty on the level of housing need to plan for
- a statement of common ground to improve how local authorities work together to meet housing and other needs across boundaries
- making use of viability assessments simpler, quicker and more transparent
- increased planning application fees in those areas where local planning authorities are delivering the homes their communities need

The Consultation document can be viewed via the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-right-homes-in-the-right-places-consultation-proposals>

3. Proposal

- 3.1** Your officers have drafted what it is considered to be a response to the questions that the Government is seeking responses to. This is provided as Appendix 1 to this report

Date report prepared 31st October