

CABINET MEMBERS DELEGATED DECISION

Open/Exempt		Would any decisions proposed:			
Any especially affected Wards	Mandatory/	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide		YES/NO	
	Discretionary/	Need to be recommendations to Council		YES/NO	
	Operational	Is it a Key Decision		YES/NO	
N/A					
Lead Member: Cllr Jim Moriarty E-mail: cllr.james.moriarty@west-norfolk.gov.uk			Other Cabinet Members consulted: Cabinet Members invited to Local Plan Task Group Meeting. Those participating included Cllr Ring, Cllr de Whalley, and Cllr Morley.		
			Other Members consulted: Local Plan Task Group, Including Cllr Blunt who is the Vice Chair.		
Lead Officer: Alex Fradley E-mail: alex.fradley@west-norfolk.gov.uk			Other Officers consulted: Stuart Ashworth, Hannah Wood-Handy, Micheal Burton, Luke Brown, Nikki Patton, Karl Patterson, and Clare Cobley.		
Financial Implications YES/NO	Policy/Personnel Implications YES/NO	Statutory Implications YES/NO	Equal Impact Assessment YES/NO If YES: Pre-screening/ Full Assessment	Risk Management Implications YES/NO	Environmental Considerations YES/NO
If not for publication, the paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act considered to justify that is (are) paragraph(s)					
Date of publication of report: 30.09.2024			Date decision to be taken: 07.10.2024		
Deadline for Call-In: 14.10.2024					

TITLE: BCKLWN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: PROPOSED REFORMS TO THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM.

Summary

The new, Labour, Government within 3 weeks of coming into power launched a planning consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy (NPPF) and other changes to the planning system. This consultation began on Tuesday 30 July 2024 at 2pm and closed at 11.45pm on Tuesday 24 September 2024.

Recommendation

The recommendation is that the Borough Council consider the consultation material and provide a response.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that Borough Council take part in this important planning consultation. This includes informing Government of what the potential changes could mean for King's Lynn & West Norfolk if taken forward as consulted on.



1 Background

- 1.1 The new, Labour, Government within 3 weeks of coming into power launched a planning consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy (NPPF) and other changes to the planning system. This is available to view via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>
- 1.2 The material was circulated to the Local Plan Task Group (LPTG) as part of the agenda for the meeting of 12/09/2024 for review. Prior to the meeting Cabinet Members were invited to participate.
- 1.3 At the meeting the Planning Policy Team gave a presentation which provided a high-level overview of the consultation package and some technical planning policy thoughts. The Task Group then provided their thoughts, which were captured by officers. The agenda, minutes, copy of presentation, and recording of the meeting (via YouTube) is available via the following link: [Agenda for Local Plan Task Group on Thursday, 12th September, 2024, 2.00 pm \(west-norfolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/agenda-for-local-plan-task-group-on-thursday-12th-september-2024-2-00-pm)
- 1.4 It is important to note that part of the Terms of Reference of the Local Plan Task Group is to respond to national planning consultations.
- 1.5 Officers then prepared a draft response to the consultation. The proposed response was shared with the Chair of the LPTG and portfolio holder (Cllr Moriarty) and the Vice Chair of the LPTG (Cllr Blunt) for review. A meeting took place on the Friday afternoon of 20/09/2024 between the Chair, Vice Chair, and the Planning Policy Manager in which it was agreed that the proposed consultation response was appropriate, captured the views shared, and should be submitted.
- 1.6 The consultation response was submitted via email to the Government on Monday 23/09/2024. A copy of which accompanies this paper as Appendix 1.

2 Options Considered

- 2.1 There are only two options, to either respond to the consultation or not. It was decided that it was important for the Borough Council to take part in such a consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes proposed to the planning system.

3 Policy Implications

- 3.1 There are considered to be no policy implications by responding to the consultation.



4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are considered to be no financial implications by responding to the consultation, beyond time.

5 Personnel Implications

5.1 There are considered to be no personnel implications by responding to the consultation.

6 Environmental Implications

6.1 There are considered to be no environmental implications by responding to the consultation.

7 Statutory Considerations

7.1 The consultation is open to all. There are considered to be no statutory considerations by responding to the consultation.

8 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 There are considered to be no EIA considerations by responding to the consultation. It is a Government consultation and as such will be for them to consider this. However, the pre-screening from has been completed for completeness.

9 Risk Management Implications

N/A

10 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

N/A

11 Background Papers

- Government consultation documents, track changes version of the NPPF, and outcome of the proposed revised method:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>
- Written Ministerial Statement - Building the homes we need:
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2024-07-30/hcws48?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery



Signed: Jim Moriarty

Cabinet Member for: Planning and Licensing Date: 28/09/2024



Stage 1 - Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Name of policy/service/function	Planning Policy				
Is this a new or existing policy/service/function? (<i>tick as appropriate</i>)	New		Existing	X	
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service is rigidly constrained by statutory obligations, and identify relevant legislation.	A response to the Government consultation: Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system				
Who has been consulted as part of the development of the policy/service/function? – new only (<i>identify stakeholders consulted with</i>)	n/a The consultation response was formulated in consultation with the Local Plan Task Group and Cabinet Members. It was agreed by the Portfolio Holder and Chair of the Local Plan Task Group and the Vice Chair of the Local Plan Task Group.				
Question	Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p> <p><i>If potential adverse impacts are identified, then a full Equality Impact Assessment (Stage 2) will be required.</i></p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			X	
	Disability			X	
	Sex			X	
	Gender Re-assignment			X	
	Marriage/civil partnership			X	
	Pregnancy & maternity			X	
	Race			X	
	Religion or belief			X	
	Sexual orientation			X	
	Armed forces community			X	
	Care leavers			X	
Other (eg low income, caring responsibilities)			X		



Question	Answer	Comments		
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?	No			
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?	No			
4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?	No			
5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section	No	Actions: No actions at this time.		
		Actions agreed by EWG member: C Dorgan.....		
If 'yes' to questions 2 - 4 a full impact assessment will be required unless comments are provided to explain why this is not felt necessary:				
Decision agreed by EWG member:				
Assessment completed by:				
Name	Alex Fradley			
Job title	Planning Policy Manager			
Date completed	24/09/2024			
Reviewed by EWG member	Claire Dorgan	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>24/09/2024</td> </tr> </table>	Date	24/09/2024
Date	24/09/2024			

X Please tick to confirm completed EIA Pre-screening Form has been shared with Corporate Policy (corporate.policy@west-norfolk.gov.uk)