

Item 2 - Planning White Paper

The attached report was considered by the Development & Conservation Advisory Committee on 20 October 2020. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Development & Conservation Advisory Committee (20 October 2020, Minute 55)

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended her thanks to all staff involved with the report and recent Member briefings.

The Strategic Planning Manager presented the report which sought Members' approval to the proposed consultation response to the Government's Planning White Paper. The proposed reforms to the system were presented as three pillars: Planning for Development; Planning for Beautiful Places; Planning for Infrastructure and Connected Places; and the proposed response addressed each of these in turn.

During discussion, Members noted that where the report may say 'no' to a question the actual draft response currently stated 'not sure,' for example as set out for Question 22 (a). Members agreed that they would prefer a 'no' followed by an explanation and generally commented that responses could be more substantive. The desire for officers to be more clear in their responses that the current planning system works well and the need to 'fix' what perhaps only needed 'tweaking' was also requested. It was discussed whether this should be in a covering letter but Members were keen to see this in their response for questions as this was more likely to be considered.

It was also acknowledged that there were a number of minor typographical and grammar amendments that were still required.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That

- a) the content of the report be noted;
- b) prior to consideration of the report by Cabinet, Officers be requested to
 - i) make minor typographical and grammar corrections as required

- ii) ensure all answers were as robust and comprehensive as possible, with 'not sure' being amended to 'no' with justification, where applicable, and to include reference in the response that the current planning system worked well and there was no need to 'fix' it
 - iii) check whether it was possible to submit a covering letter and produce a draft if allowed;
- c) it be recommended to Cabinet that the proposed response to the Planning White Paper be approved as amended above, and submitted to the Government, in advance of the submission deadline of 29 October 2020.