

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

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Rebecca Breese, Strategic Planning, Built Environment & Rural Affairs

Report Title **Response to consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework**

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List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Suggested response to consultation on the NPPF.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For members to consider a suggested response to the current consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The report summarises the government’s proposed changes to the NPPF and suggests a response from this Council.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that Planning Policy Committee:

- a) Agrees the suggested response to the consultation on proposed changes to the NPPF as set out in Appendix A.

4. Reason for Recommendations

4.1 To ensure that Government is aware of this Council's views on proposed changes to national policy and in some cases to seek to persuade government to revise its proposed changes.

5. Report Background

5.1 The Government is consulting on proposed changes to the NPPF. In its consultation it notes that a fuller review will be required in due course.

5.2 It is the Government's intention to respond to the consultation in spring this year and publish a revised NPPF alongside this in order that the new policies can take effect as soon as possible.

5.3 The Consultation document summarises the changes as follows:

- make clear how housing figures should be derived and applied so that communities can respond to local circumstances;
- address issues in the operation of the housing delivery and land supply tests;
- tackle problems of slow build out;
- encourage local planning authorities to support the role of community-led groups in delivering affordable housing on exception sites;
- set clearer expectations around planning for older peoples' housing;
- promote more beautiful homes, including through gentle density;
- make sure that food security considerations are factored into planning decisions that affect farm land;
- and enable new methods for demonstrating local support for onshore wind development.

5.4 Alongside these specific changes, the consultation document calls for views on a wider range of proposals, particularly focused on making sure the planning system capitalises on opportunities to support the natural environment, responding to climate change and delivering on levelling up of economic opportunity, and signalling areas that the Government expects to consider in the context of a wider review of the Framework to follow Royal Assent of the Bill. The government will consult on the detail of these wider changes next year, reflecting responses to this consultation.

5.4 The consultation also sets out what the Government envisages for National Development Management policies which are intended to save plan makers from having to repeat nationally important policies in their plans. The Government's intention is to make policies more consistent for small and medium housebuilders. The policies would

be published separately from the NPPF which would be refocused on principles for plan making.

- 5.5 In respect of housing, the Government remains committed to delivering 300,000 dwellings per annum by the mid 20s. It sees the plan making system as the most effective way to achieve this and is seeking to incentivise local authorities to speed up plan production, including a proposal to remove the requirement for annual assessments of five year supply and making changes to the Housing Delivery Test.
- 5.6 The consultation consists of two documents. Firstly the '[Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy](#)' sets out the government's proposed changes and the reasons for them. This document has 58 questions which the government is inviting responses to. The suggested response to these questions is set out in appendix A. The Government has also published a [tracked change version of the NPPF](#) showing the changes it is proposing to make to it, subject to the outcome of this consultation.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 The purpose of this report is to suggest a response from this Council to the Government on proposed changes to the NPPF. Members could decide to submit an amended response.
- 6.2 An alternative approach would be to not respond to the consultation.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 There are no financial implications arising specifically from this report.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 There are no legal implications arising specifically from this report.

7.3 Risk

There are no risks arising from the recommendations in this report.

7.4 Consultation

- 7.4.1 Not applicable.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- 7.5.1 Not applicable

7.6 **Climate Impact**

7.6.1 There are no climate change impacts arising specifically from this report.

7.7 **Community Impact**

7.7.1 There are no community impacts arising specifically from this report.

7.8 **Communications**

7.8.1 None directly arising from this report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 [Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy](#)