Executive   15th October 2024

Redditch Borough Council response to: 'Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system'.

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Joe Baker
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
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Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	Yes via Planning Advisory Panel
Relevant Council Priorities	Housing and Environment
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

    The Executive RECOMMEND that:-

    1) The response to the 'Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system' at Appendix A is submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

2. **BACKGROUND**

2.1   On the 30th July the Government published a consultation titled '*Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system'.* This public consultation is wide-ranging and aimed at all elements of the planning sector as well as other stakeholders including the general public. The consultation began on the 30th July and closed on the 24th September at 11:45pm.

2.2   The consultation contains 106 questions, the proposed response at Appendix A responds to the vast majority of those questions. The response has been informed by discussions and comments from elected members via the Planning Advisory Panel (PAP)

2.3   In summary the content of the consultation focusses on the following areas:

- Planning for the homes we need
- A new Standard Method for assessing housing needs
- Brownfield, grey belt and the Green Belt
- Delivering affordable, well-designed homes and places
- Building infrastructure to grow the economy
- Delivering community needs
- Supporting green energy and the environment
- Changes to local plan intervention criteria
- Changes to planning application fees and cost recovery for local authorities related to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects
- The future of planning policy and plan making

2.4   Significant issues to note are as follows:

- The introduction of a mandatory housing target.
- A new way of calculating the housing target which increased Redditch Borough's requirement to 489 dwellings per annum from 143 per annum.
- The reinstatement of strategic / regional planning.
- The introduction of new 'grey belt' policy.
- A stronger focus on the delivery of social rented housing.
- New planning application fees.
- New intervention criteria on local plans.

3.   FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1   None

4.   LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1   The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) will be a key document which sets out how plan making and development management decisions will be made. Whilst there are no legal implications at this stage, the revised NPPF will be a significant material consideration once adopted.

5.   COUNCIL PRIORITIES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Council Priorities

The changes that are being proposed will have an impact on both Development Management decisions and the content of the Borough of Redditch Local plan review and as such will have potential implications on all of the Council's Priorities.

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Climate Change Implications

5.2 It is not considered that the proposed response will have any climate change implications.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.1 There are not considered to be any customer/equality or diversity implications.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 There are no associated risks with this report.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A: Redditch Borough Council response to: 'Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system'.