

# FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel (to be confirmed at the next meeting)

**Date:** Wednesday, 18 September 2024

**Venue:** Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

**PRESENT:**

**Councillor** Mrs T L Ellis (Chairman)

**Councillor** S Dugan (Vice-Chairman)

**Councillors:** Mrs L M Birkett, Mrs P K Hayre, A M J Murphy, P M Nother and P W Whittle

**Also Present:** M R Daniells (Executive Member for Planning and Development)



**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies of absence were received at the meeting.

**2. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel meeting held on the 05 June 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made no announcements at the meeting.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS**

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

**5. DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received at the meeting.

**6. CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK**

The Panel received an Executive report from the Head of Planning on the Council's suggested consultation response to the Government's proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Since the consultation on the proposed reforms to the NPPF began on the 30 July 2024, officers have worked to fully understand the implications of the proposals for this Borough and have prepared the Council's response.

The Team Leader (Planning Strategy), supported by the Principal Planner (Strategy) presented the Executive report to the Panel highlighting the key areas of change and the potential implications of these changes for this Borough.

Members raised considerable concern about the proposed changes to the standard method, which would substantially increase the number of houses the Borough will need to accommodate and would effectively impose the minimum number of houses the Borough must plan for.

Members of the Panel were also very concerned at the requirement for all Council's to demonstrate a five year housing land supply, irrespective of whether they have an up-to-date local plan or not. Such an approach would significantly undermine the plan-led system, which is the appropriate mechanism for determining the number of houses the Council needs to plan for, and the location for new development.

In addition to submitting a formal response to the consultation, it was recommended by the Panel that a letter should be sent by the Council to the

Deputy Prime Minister, setting out the Council's key observations on the proposed changes to the NPPF.

Members then discussed the suggested consultation response in detail. Members unanimously agreed with the responses, and suggested a small number of changes to them, elaborating further on the Council's concerns (along with some minor typographical amendments). Table 1 below highlights these proposed changes:

<b>Table 1</b>	
<b>Question number</b>	<b>Proposed Change</b>
Q4	Answer should be reworded to 'disagree' and reworded accordingly.
Q5	Typo – replace 'at a detailed levels' with 'at a detailed level'.
Q9	Include 'and concerned' following 'extremely disappointed' in the first sentence of paragraph 4.
Q19	Strengthen wording in paragraph two around tackling directly with developers and stalled sites particularly around what could be done with council tax.
Q59	Typo – replace 'fitting' with 'keeping'
Q79	Reword second sentence to provide a positive slant from Council's perspective
Q80	Strengthen this to identify the role of funding and push for further local authority funding
Q81	Include positive support for the role of existing/managed wild hedgerows and the biodiversity benefits they provide
Q84	Add wording identifying the challenges the Borough is currently facing in regard to sewage and waste water infrastructure and impacts on the solent such as leakage and spills
Q96	Typo – 'Yes' missing from text

RESOLVED that the Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel: -

- a) note the contents of the Executive report attached at Appendix 1;
- c) ask the Executive Member for Planning and Development to consider the proposed changes in table 1 at the Executive Member Decision meeting on the 19 September 2024; and
- b) Suggest to the Executive Member for Planning and Development that a letter be sent from the Council to the Deputy Prime Minister setting out the Council's key observations on the proposed changes to the NPPF.

## **7. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS**

The Panel received the item of Executive Business that had been taken since the last meeting.

### **(1) Self and Custom Build Housing Action Plan Review**

No questions or comments were received for this item.

**8. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY PANEL PRIORITIES**

Members were asked to consider the Scrutiny Priorities for the Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel.

The Director of Planning and Regeneration addressed the Panel to explain that the priorities set out at the last meeting had not changed, although the NPPF consultation had impacted upon staff resource, and that the timescales for these work streams had been impacted.

It was agreed that officers would seek to confirm which items would be brought to the future meetings within this municipal year and that this would be circulated to Members of the Panel as soon as possible.

RESOLVED that the Panel considered the Scrutiny Priorities for the Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm  
and ended at 7.52 pm).

..... Chairman

..... Date