

**Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny  
Management Committee**

**16 September 2020**

Report of the Director of Governance

**Recent and Proposed changes to Planning and Licensing – including  
the Business and Planning Act 2020**

**Summary**

1. By Autumn 2020 there will have been a number of significant permanent and temporary changes to planning and licensing legislation and proposals for further planning reforms, which have recently been published by Government for consultation.
2. The proposed changes would have a significant impact on all councillors in their representative role, and amend/delete many of the features that the public have come to expect in terms of being able to comment and challenge planning applications.

**Background**

3. At the Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning Decision Session held on 1 September, the Executive Member considered a report on the proposed changes. The report was split into two sections; the first outlining the two planning consultations that had been released by the Government, Planning For Future (White paper) and Changes To The Current Planning System, along with the questions that form part of the consultation. The second part outlined the recent changes to Planning and Licensing legislation and the associated impacts/implications.
4. The Executive Member referred part one of the report along with the Council's draft response to this Committee for consideration to seek cross party views on the proposed response before it is submitted.

5. As set out in the report that went to the Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning, the Assistant Director for Planning and Public Protection has been delegated responsibility by the Executive Member to submit the Council's response to the consultations referred to in part 1 of the report, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Performance and Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning.

### **Consultation**

6. No specific consultation was required on the preparation of this report.

### **Options**

7. The Committee can choose to:
  - (i) Support the response as drafted; or
  - (ii) Recommend amendments to the proposed response to be taken into account prior to the final response being made.

### **Analysis**

8. No analysis was necessary in this report.

### **Council Plan 2019-23**

9. Implications associated with the Council Plan are addressed in the attached report that was presented at the decision session of the Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning (Annex 3).

### **Risk Management**

10. There are no risks associated with this report.

### **Recommendations**

14. It is recommended that Members consider and discuss part one of the report and offer their views on the Council's draft response to the consultation.

Reason: To ensure that the views of scrutiny Members are represented.

## Contact Details

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Report Approved  Date 8/9/2020

### Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Janie Berry, Director of Governance – legal implications

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** None

### Annexes

Annex 1 - Draft Response to White Paper: Planning for the Future

Annex 2 - Changes to the current planning system

Annex 3 - report presented at the Economy and Strategic Planning Executive  
Member Decision Session held on 1 September 2020