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MEETING	CABINET
DATE	4 OCTOBER 2011
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS ALEXANDER (CHAIR), CRISP, FRASER, GUNNELL, MERRETT, POTTER AND SIMPSON-LAING (VICE- CHAIR)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR LOOKER

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## **PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL**

### **53. CITY OF YORK COUNCIL: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Members considered a report which informed them of the content of the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and asked them to consider a potential response to consultation thereon.

The NPPF was intended to replace current extensive planning policy guidance in a single, succinct document. It would also incorporate the new planning policy on traveller sites, previously issued as a separate document for consultation in August. The Council's response to that consultation (attached at Annex B) would be submitted alongside its response to consultation on the NPPF. The NPPF itself had been made available on the Council's website as Annex A to the report.

Key objectives of the NPPF, as identified in the Foreword to the document, included a presumption in favour of sustainable development as the basis for every plan. Three levels of plan making were identified; National planning policies as set out in the NPPF, Local Plans prepared by councils in consultation with the community and Neighbourhood plans prepared by communities themselves.

The Council's draft response to consultation, as set out in Annex C and summarised in paragraphs 52-75 of the report, welcomed in principle the NPPF's commitment to sustainable development but expressed concerns around the definition of that term, suggesting that more clarity was needed on this and on the issue of transitional arrangements. Further concerns

were expressed with regard to the policies on town centres, transport, minerals planning, climate change / flooding, nature conservation and protection of the historic environment. The draft response had been considered by the Local Development Framework Working Group, whose comments were circulated at the meeting.

RECOMMENDED: (i) That Council approve the attached response to the consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework, as amended by the changes recommended by the LDF Working Group at their meeting on 3 October 2011, for submission to the Department of Communities & Local Government.

(ii) That Council delegate to the Director of City Strategy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for City Strategy, authority to make any changes to the submission that are necessary as a result of the above recommendation.

REASON: So that representations on the NPPF can be made within an appropriate timescale.

J Alexander, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.55 pm].