

## **Item 14 - Member Motion: Planning White Paper**

**Council – Thursday, 8 October 2020**

**Amendment proposed by Councillor Evans - to remove the wording in full and insert the text in italics:**

### **This Council notes:**

- ~~□ The publication by Government of the White Paper, 'Planning for the Future' sets out proposals to change the planning process.~~
- ~~□ Currently, the vast majority of planning applications are given the go-ahead by local authority planning committees, with permission granted to around 9 out of 10 applications nationally.~~
- ~~□ That research by the Local Government Association has found that there are existing planning permissions for more than one million homes that have not yet been started.~~

### **This Council is concerned that the proposals seek to:**

- ~~1. Reduce or remove the right of residents to object to applications near them.~~
- ~~2. Grant automatic rights for developers to build on land identified as 'for growth'.~~
- ~~3. Remove section 106 payments for infrastructure and their replacement with a national levy.~~

### **This Council Further Notes:**

- ~~1. The Royal Institute for British Architects called the proposals "shameful and will do almost nothing to guarantee delivery of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes". RIBA also said that proposals could lead to the next generation of slum housing.~~
- ~~2. The reforms are opposed by the all-party Local Government Association, currently led by Conservative Councillors.~~

### **This Council Believes:**

- ~~1. That existing planning procedures, as currently administered by our own team in Uttlesford, allow for local democratic control over future development, and give local people a say in planning proposals that affect them.~~
- ~~2. That proposals for automatic rights to build in 'growth' areas, and increased permitted development rights, risk unregulated growth and unsustainable communities.~~

~~3. That local communities must be in the driving seat on shaping the future of their communities, and that local determination of the planning framework and planning applications play an important part in this process.~~

**This Council resolves to:**

- ~~1. Take part in the consultation on the planning proposals, and to make representations against the proposals as outlined in this motion.~~
- ~~2. Write to and lobby our Member of Parliament, urging her to oppose these proposals, and also to oppose proposals for much higher, algorithmically generated housing growth in Uttlesford, and to circulate her reply to all members.~~
- ~~3. Continue to highlight its concerns over these proposals with local media and residents.~~

*This Council **being of the opinion** that there is cross party consensus to seek to improve the planning system, does not consider that the proposed reforms in the White Paper "Planning For The Future" published in August 2020 achieve that aim.*

*This Council **notes** the responses given on its behalf on 1 October 2020 by the Leader to a Consultation upon "Changes to the current planning system", which it endorses.*

*This Council **resolves to** submit a response to the White Paper consultation which will (among other matters):*

- 1. advocate the continuation of the third tiers' and residents' entitlement to be consulted upon planning policy and to submit effective representations upon planning development applications;*
- 2. support the provision of at least the same amount of affordable housing on site as at present;*
- 3. promote the effective supply and early use of any infrastructure levy, which should be locally and not nationally set;*
- 4. support proper consideration of the effective stewardship and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, noting with regret that no consultation is currently sought on this topic;*
- 5. object to the use of "pattern book" model for all new development;*
- 6. support the value and materiality of Neighbourhood Plans; and*
- 7. support the greater and improved use of digital technology in the development planning management process.*

*This Council **further resolves:***

- 8. to submit a copy of its responses and representations to the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government in further support of the briefing meeting held by Officers with his Officials in September 2020, and in addition to write to and lobby Mrs Kemi Badenoch MP urging her to oppose the proposals in so far as they seek to limit democratic participation in local planning matters and to request her support for the above resolutions; and*

9. *to highlight its concerns with the third tiers directly and with residents via press and social media.*