

# National Planning Reform Consultation Working Group

## Terms of Reference

### 1. Title

National Planning Reform Consultation Working Group.

### 2. Status

The working group shall be a Working Group of the Berkhamsted Town Council reporting directly to the Town Planning Committee. Working Groups make recommendations to the Town Planning Committee and do not have executive decision-making powers.

### 3. Background

The Working Group was established at the Town Planning Committee on the 24 August 2020 and these terms of reference will be endorsed at the next Full Council meeting on the 7 September 2020.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has issued the following consultations on the reform of the planning system

- **Changes to the current Planning System:** This consultation seeks views on a range of proposed changes to the current planning system including: changes to the standard method for assessing local housing need, securing of First Homes through developer contributions, temporarily lifting the small sites threshold and extending the current Permission in Principle to major development. The deadline for responses to this consultation is the **17 of September 2020**.
- **White paper: Planning for the future:** This consultation seeks any views on each part of a package of proposals for reform of the planning system in England to streamline and modernise the planning process, improve outcomes on design and sustainability, reform developer contributions and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed. The deadline for responses to this consultation is the **15 October 2020**.

### 4. Purpose

The purpose of the Working Group is to provide a forum to agree the Town Council's response to these consultations with the aim of benefitting the residents of Berkhamsted while also reflecting the Town Council's aspirations to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

## **5. Membership:**

- A minimum of three members of Berkhamsted Town Council who together have decision-making authority within the working group.
- The core Working Group will be chaired by Cllr G Stevens and other members from the Town Planning Committee will include Cllr J Jones and Cllr P White. The invitation to join the Working Group will be sent to all Council members.
- Members of the public/local interest groups etc may be co-opted at the discretion of the Council members. The reasons for appointment shall be documented by the Chair and noted in the minutes. The number of co-opted members cannot exceed the number of councillors.
- Other member of the community and special interest groups may, at the discretion of the Chair, be invited to attend specific meetings and/or provide expert advice to the committee.
- All members (including non-councillors) should comply with the standards set out in the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.

## **6. Quorum:**

The quorum of the group shall be half of the Working Group, which must include two Councillors.

## **7. Meeting Administration**

Frequency and location of meetings to be agreed by Chair and members but must provide notes from meetings for discussion at the Town Planning Committee for approval and adoption if appropriate.

## **8. Financial**

It is not anticipated that the Working Group shall incur any items of expenditure. Occasional items may be agreed with authorisation by the Town Clerk within current budget and in accordance with Financial Regulations.

JH 20/08/2020