

**COUNCIL BUSINESS
COMMITTEE**

6.00 P.M.

15TH OCTOBER 2020

PRESENT:- Councillors Joyce Pritchard (Chair), Victoria Boyd-Power, Joan Jackson, Paul Stubbins and Katie Whearty

Apologies for Absence:

None.

Officers in attendance:

Debbie Chambers	Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Maurice Brophy	Service Manager - Planning & Housing Strategy
Fiona Jayne Clark	Planning Officer – Housing and Communities
Eric Marsden	Democratic Support Officer

7 MINUTES

The minutes of 29th September 2020 were agreed as a true record, and would be signed by the Chair at a later date.

8 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

COUNCILLOR WHEARTY JOINED THE MEETING AT 6:05 P.M.

10 RESPONSE TO THE RAISING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS FOR NEW HOMES CONSULTATION

Fiona Jayne Clark, Planning Officer – Housing and Communities, presented a report submitted by the Director of Economic Growth and Regeneration informing the Committee of the Raising Accessibility Standards for New Homes consultation, for which responses had to be submitted by 1st December 2020.

The Committee were taken through the five options the Government were seeking views upon in the consultation, and the draft response to it by the Council (circulated prior to the meeting). Two additional comments to the response to Question 4 (Appendix 1) of the report were tabled, adding as follows (*in italics*):

- (i) “ NDSS must therefore be retained, and preferably also made mandatory *within*

both the Building Regulations and planning system. ”

- (ii) “ The Councils own evidence highlights an aging population and a need for accessible and adaptable homes to meet the needs of a wide range of people. *The following number of properties currently require accessibility improvements in Lancaster District:*
- *17 require full adaption;*
 - *27 require a wet room;*
 - *6 require either level access or a shower.*
- It should be noted that these figures provide a snapshot in time. “*

The Committee appreciated the work that had been put into responding to the consultation, and it was proposed that the Officer recommendations including the additional comments to Question 4 (Appendix 1) as above be accepted.

Resolved:

That the draft response to the consultation, at Appendix 1 of the Report including the additional comments to Question 4 (Appendix 1) as above, is submitted as a formal response from Lancaster City Council.

11 RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION ON THE PLANNING WHITE PAPER - PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Maurice Brophy, Service Manager - Planning & Housing Strategy, presented a report submitted by the Director of Economic Growth and Regeneration informing the Committee of the Government's consultation on the Planning White Paper 'Planning for the Future', for which responses had to be submitted by 29th October 2020.

The Committee were taken through the 84 page White Paper, in which the Government had sought to identify the current problems with the planning system, outline their vision of the future, and seek views on their proposals, along with the draft response to the 26 questions of the consultation by the Council (circulated prior to the meeting).

Discussion included issues of the weight that might be given by the Government to responses received; the scale of the changes proposed and the ambition of replacing over 60 years of accrued planning legislation; which areas had not been addressed by the consultation (such as land ownership and control); the potential risk to local authorities of borrowing on the basis of anticipated receipts from infrastructure delivery; and the future role of Neighbourhood Plans as drawn up by Parish and Town Councils.

The Committee recognised the work that had gone into the consultation response, and it was proposed that the Officer recommendations be accepted.

Resolved:

- (1) That the draft response to this consultation, as attached to Appendix 1 of the report, is submitted as the formal response of Lancaster City Council.
- (2) That officers keep Members updated on the progress of the White Paper and keep under review the implications of the reforms on the decision-making and

plan-making roles of the Council. Updates will be provided through the Local Plan Review Group (LPRG) and Council's Planning Committee on this matter.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Debbie Chambers, Democratic Services - email dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk**