

Motion on Notice - Reforms to the Planning System (Motion 2)

Proposer Councillor Thornberry, Seconders Councillors Hanson, Lewis and Robinson.

Last month the House of Commons called on the Government to protect residents' rights to retain a voice in planning applications.

The Government proposals to reform the planning system are based on the concept of a zoning system. If an area is zoned for growth or renewal, developers can be granted outline planning permission. The normal second stage of applying for full planning applications will be removed. Planning committees won't decide applications in the same way and people will not have the same right to comment on specific proposals.

The Council notes that:

- *there is an urgent local need for affordable housing;*
- *there are major concerns about development worsening flooding;*
- *Lancaster City Council Cabinet has just approved a consultation draft of updates to the local plan to strengthen our response to the climate emergency*
- *these are issues which could be ignored or bypassed if local involvement in planning is reduced*
- *planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver sustainable, affordable, accessible and necessary new homes*
- *the Government's proposed planning changes are a threat to local democracy and involvement.*

The Council resolves that:

- *the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State expressing our belief that the rights of our residents and local groups to be heard in the local planning process and on individual planning applications should not only be maintained, but strengthened*
- *all consultation responses prepared by Lancaster City Council include this position, whenever relevant.*

(The Officer Briefing note for this motion is the same as that attached to Motion 1)