

**COUNCIL BUSINESS
COMMITTEE**

6.00 P.M.

19TH FEBRUARY 2026

PRESENT:- Councillors Ross Hunter (Chair), Paul Newton (Vice-Chair), David Whitaker and Maria Deery (Substitute)

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Suhir Abuhajar, Abi Mills and Jean Parr

Officers in attendance:

Mark Cassidy	Chief Officer - Planning and Climate Change
Jennifer Curtis	Licensing Manager
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer, Democratic Services
Phillip Abel	Democratic Support Officer

20 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 27 November 2025 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

21 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

23 TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING - DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT CONSULTATION

The Licensing Manager addressed the Committee to introduce the Department for Transport (DfT) consultation on making all local transport authorities (LTAs) in England responsible for taxi and private hire (PHV) licensing. Members were asked to note the consultation and agree the draft response for submission by the Licensing Manager.

The Committee was provided a brief overview of the consultation and was informed that the draft response incorporated comments already received by members of the Licensing Committee.

Following a call for comments or questions, it was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor David Whitaker and agreed unanimously as follows:

Resolved: -

- (1) That the Department for Transport (DfT) consultation on making all local transport authorities (LTAs) in England responsible for taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) licensing be noted.
- (2) That Council Business Committee agree the draft response to consultation questions as set out in the report.
- (3) That Council Business Committee delegate the Licensing Manager to make minor alterations to the response and submit the final version of the response to the DfT.

24 CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Chief Officer Planning and Climate Change addressed the Committee to advise Members of the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) consultation on the new draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and to seek authority to submit a draft response.

Members were provided a summary of the main themes of the new draft NPPF and the Council's proposed response along with areas of discussion raised by the 17 February meeting of Planning Policy Cabinet Advisory Group.

The Committee was provided opportunity for comments or questions, during which the Chair proposed amending the answer to question 67a concerning the discretion to deliver social and affordable housing requirements via cash payments in lieu of on-site delivery on medium sites to the following:

"As a matter of current Local Plan policy, the Council will seek to secure on-site affordable housing delivery. But policy is a matter of guidance, not axiomatic, and where the Council sees advantage in a particular case for funding off-site affordable housing, it will be prepared to negotiate a commuted sum."

This was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Maria Deery. It was agreed unanimously by the Committee to approve the draft response with the amendment with the answer to question 67a.

Resolved: -

- (1) That the consultation responses relating to the proposed National Planning Policy Framework be submitted as per the draft agreed by the Planning Policy Cabinet Advisory Group with the answer to question 67a substituted with the following:

"As a matter of current Local Plan policy, the Council will seek to secure on-site affordable housing delivery. But policy is a matter of guidance, not axiomatic, and where the Council sees advantage in a particular case for funding off-site affordable housing, it will be prepared to negotiate a commuted sum."

25 RESPONDING TO THE OPEN CONSULTATION ON THE FOREST OF BOWLAND NATIONAL LANDSCAPE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Committee received the report of the Chief Officer Planning and Climate Change advising Members of the consultation on the Forest of Bowland National Landscape Draft Management Plan. Members were asked to note the proposed response to the consultation and consider it for submission as the Council's corporate response.

Members were advised of the 4 themes of the draft plan and the proposed response prepared by the Planning Policy & Housing Strategy Team. The Committee were informed that the draft response to the consultation had also been reviewed by the Planning Policy Cabinet Advisory Group (PPCAG) on 17 February.

It was proposed by Councillor Whitaker, seconded by Councillor Newton and agreed unanimously as follows:

Resolved: -

- 1) That the report be noted and that the responses to the consultation questions as proposed are considered and submitted as the Council's corporate response to the consultation.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Phillip Abel, Democratic Support - email pabel@lancaster.gov.uk**