

# CABINET

## Establishment of a Planning Policy Cabinet Advisory Group

2 December 2025

### Report of Chief Officer – Planning and Climate Change

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
This report sets out the proposed establishment of a new Planning Policy Cabinet Advisory Group to replace the existing Members' Local Plan Review Group.			
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referral from Cabinet Member
Date of notice of forthcoming key decision	N/A		
This report is public.			

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF Councillor Sue Tyldesley (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning)

- (1) That Cabinet authorise the establishment of the Planning Policy Cabinet Advisory Group as a direct replacement for the existing Local Plan Review Group.
- (2) That the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 1 be authorised by Cabinet.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Advisory Groups are informal bodies that may be created by Cabinet. They are consultative and are not decision-making.
- 1.2 Periodically, Cabinet meets to determine which Advisory Groups should be established, which should be retained, and which Groups should be stood down. The last such meeting was in July 2023.

#### 2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 The Local Plan Review Group (LPRG) was established in October 2019 to provide Members with an opportunity to consider the purpose, scope and future direction of the Council's Local Plan, particularly in the context of the (then) emerging Climate Emergency Review of the Local Plan. LPRG became an effective body in setting the Council's plan-making agenda, and it helped to validate the urgent need to pursue new policies relating to energy efficiency standards and the decarbonisation of transport.

- 2.2 Since the Climate Emergency Review of the Local Plan was adopted earlier this year, the focus has turned to preparation of the new District Local Plan. Cabinet approved the timescale for Local Plan preparation on 15 April 2025, and LPRG has continued to receive progress updates since then.
- 2.3 It is now considered that a more structured informal body, in the form of a Planning Policy Cabinet Advisory Group, will provide more proportionate scrutiny and have benefit in helping the Council achieve the challenging Local Plan timescales. In establishing the Group, it is hoped that the Local Plan and other planning policy matters will enjoy a higher local profile and that it will lead to a more transparent process for all Elected Members and residents of the district.
- 2.4 Elected Members or other third parties can request to attend the meeting by writing to the Chair. This is not an automatic right, and the request may be turned down (with reasons provided if this is the case). External speakers/experts may be invited to speak at meetings at the request of the Chair. The Terms of Reference at Appendix 1 provides further detail.
- 2.5 Membership of the Group will be as per the political balance of the Council. In making membership nominations, the preference is for Members who already have some knowledge of the planning system, and who may have previously served (or currently serve) on the Planning Regulatory Committee.

### 3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 The Terms of Reference have been compiled in consultation with Democratic and Legal colleagues, and in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning.

### 4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

	<b>Option 1: To establish a PPCAG to replace LPRG</b>	<b>Option 2: To not establish a PPCAG to replace LPRG</b>
<b>Advantages</b>	The new Cabinet Advisory Group will have the opportunity to be more transparent and focused on wider plan-making matters and it is more conducive to supporting the new Local Plan preparation timescale.	The existing arrangements would continue.
<b>Disadvantages</b>	None.	An opportunity to widen the scope of the Group would be lost.
<b>Risks</b>	None.	None.

### 5.0 Officer Preferred Option

- 5.1 The preferred option is Option 1.

## 6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 The establishment of the Planning Policy Cabinet Advisory Group will provide improved processes to help the Council achieve its plan-making aspirations.
- 6.2 If approved, it is envisaged that the first meeting of the Cabinet Advisory Group would be in January 2026, coinciding with the anticipated start of the formal stages of the Local Plan.

### RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Council Plan includes ambitions to make responsible decisions which support our ambitions for the district, and which seek to improve service delivery.

### CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, HR, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

The content of the report has no impact in itself.

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications stemming from this report.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with establishing the new Planning Policy Cabinet Advisory Group to replace the existing Members' Local Plan Review Group.

### OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

#### Human Resources:

There are no additional resource implications arising from the report.

#### Information Services:

There are no implications arising from the report.

#### Property:

There are no implications arising from the report.

#### Open Spaces:

There are no implications arising from the report.

### SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments to make.

### MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Cabinet Procedure Rules in the Constitution allow the creation of Advisory Groups such as this. They are informal bodies that are purely consultative and not decision making.

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Planning Policy Cabinet

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Advisory Group, Terms of Reference

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**Ref:** N/A