

URGENT BUSINESS

Response to Open Consultation: Areas for producing spatial development strategies

Report of Chief Officer - Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval from the CE in consultation with the Chair of Council Business Committee for the submission of a response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government consultation "*Areas for producing spatial development strategies*" to be delegated to the Chief Officer Planning and Climate Change.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That responsibility for approving a response to the *Areas for producing spatial development strategies* Consultation be delegated to the Chief Officer Planning and Climate Change and submitted in advance of the deadline of 26 March 2026.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 On 12 February 2026 the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) published a national consultation which sought views on proposed geographical areas over which spatial development strategies (SDS) should be produced.
- 1.2 The [consultation](#) provides further detail regarding the above proposals and is structured around a series of consultation questions.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 The next meeting of the Committee is on 28 May 2026, which is past the deadline for submission of responses. Due to existing commitments in the municipal calendar, an additional meeting of Council Business Committee may not be possible so the request must be dealt with as urgent business between meetings with the decision being taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the relevant committee for signing off on Consultation responses (Council Business Committee).

3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 The consultation consists of five questions:

1. Which SDS area(s) are you interested in?
2. Do you agree with the proposed SDS area (where one is provided)? If so, please explain the strengths of the proposal as you see them.
3. If you do not agree with the proposed SDS area, please explain the issues/challenges that it/they would present.
4. If you do not agree with the proposed SDS area, please suggest and explain one or more alternatives that you believe would work better.
5. If there is no proposed SDS area for your area of interest, we would welcome your preferred SDS area with an explanation of your reasoning.

The closing date for responses is 26 March 2026.

Given that the proposals in the consultation have a direct impact upon Development Management matters, the draft response will also be shared with the Planning Policy Cabinet Advisory Group in advance of the submission deadline. The response as submitted will then be reported in at the next scheduled meeting of Council Business Committee.

- 3.2 In line with Part 2, Section 7, of the Constitution, Matters of Urgency – there has been consultation with Councillor Ross Hunter, Chair of Council Business Committee.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of Council Business Committee, is asked to approve the delegation of the submission of a consultation response to the Chief Officer Planning and Climate Change.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications stemming from this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications stemming from this report

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[MHCLG Open Consultation Webpage](#)

Contact Officer:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Ref: