

**South Cambridgeshire District Council
Record of Executive Decision**

This form should be used to record key and other decisions made by individual Lead Cabinet members. The contact officer will ensure that the signed and completed form is given to Democratic Services as soon as reasonably practicable after the decision has been taken.

A key decision shall not be taken unless notice of the item has been published at least 28 days before the decision is to be taken except where:

- a General Exception notice has been published under Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules and the Chairman of Scrutiny and Overview Committee has been informed in writing; or
- a Special Urgency notice has been published under Rule 16 of those Rules and the Chairman of Scrutiny and Overview Committee has agreed the decision is urgent.

Unless permission has been obtained from the Chairman of Council and the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee that this decision may be treated as a matter of urgency under Rule 12.19 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules, this decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the decision, unless called in under Rule 7 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules or Rule 12 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules. Where consent has been obtained to exempt the decision from call-in, this will be specified below.

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|---|---|
| Lead Cabinet Member | Lead Cabinet member for Planning |
| Subject Matter | Response to Government Consultation: Planning for the Future White Paper |
| Ward(s) Affected | All Wards |
| Date Taken | Thursday, 25 March 2021 |
| Contact Officer | Marco Picardi, Design and Development Implementation Officer 07563 421053 (Marco.Picardi@scambs.gov.uk) |
| Date Published | Thursday, 25 March 2021 |
| Call-In Expiry/Exempt from call-in | Thursday, 1 April 2021 |
| Key Decision? | No |
| In Forward Plan? | No |
| Urgent? | No |

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| Purpose / Background |
| <p>1. Background The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has launched an eight-week consultation on proposals to establish a new Office for Place, which would require all local planning authorities to create their own design codes in consultation with local stakeholders. These design codes would have to be adhered in the planning submission process by all developers, and would entail some alterations to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p> <p>Deadline: 27th March</p> <p>2. Context The consultation follows directly from the 2021 consultations on the Planning White Paper. Last autumn, the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSP) responded to the Planning White Paper: Planning For The Future, Changes To The Current Planning System and Land Data consultations last Autumn. A copy of this joint response is available on the Councils' websites. The rationale, proposals and specific questions for this consultation, as well as the draft text</p> |

updates to the NPPF and the annexed draft National Model Design Code can be downloaded from the [government's website](#).
 In this consultation, the government is acting to implement some of the main recommendations from the Building Better, Building Beautiful Report.

3. Proposed Response from Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council

Overall, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service Officers consulted agree with the government that the planning system could be improved and should have more emphasis on design. This view echoes Greater Cambridge's response to the Planning White Paper last year where proposals that simplify processes and take advantage of more digital approaches to provide more certainty, design quality, and an emphasis on sustainability were welcomed.

However, there are significant concerns that some of the proposed changes may undermine its stated objectives of achieving good design. This concern is centred on proposed changes to Article 4 directions and the resources to deliver the design codes in a coherent manner.

The full response proposed is included as Appendix 1 to this decision.

Declaration(s) of Interest

Record below any relevant interest declared by any executive Member consulted or by an officer present in relation to the decision.

None

Dispensation(s)

In respect of any conflict(s) of interest declared above, record below any dispensation(s) granted by the Council's Standards Committee.

None

Consultation

Record below all parties consulted in relation to the decision.

Other Options Considered and Reasons for Rejection

Option 1: To not agree the proposed response to the consultation.
 Option 2: to not seek a joint response with Cambridge City Council
 Reason for rejection: the consultation offers an opportunity to feedback on proposals which could have significant impacts on planning in the Greater Cambridge area.

| Final decision | Reason(s) |
|--|--|
| To confirm that the response set out in Appendix 1 of this decision should be made to the government consultation on changes to the NPPF and National Design Code. | To provide the views of South Cambridgeshire District Council on the consultation. |

| Signed | Name (CAPITALS) | Signature | Date |
|---------------------|--|-----------|------|
| Lead Cabinet Member | Signed copy available upon request from Democratic Services (democratic.services@scambs.gov.uk) | | |
| Chief Officer | | | |

Further Information

The Government is consulting on the National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code: consultation proposals between 8 February and 27 March 2021.

