

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Councillor Chris Williams, Leader of the Council
Ray Cowlshaw, Chief Executive

Date: 8 August 2007

From: Richard Williams, Assistant Director – Regeneration

Ref: RW/CH

Copies: Councillor Ranjit Banwait
Jonathan Guest
Paul Clarke
Rob Salmon
Phil Murnaghan

PLANNING WHITE PAPER CONSULTATION

You will be aware that we received the recent Planning White Paper, with associated subsidiary papers, and with a request for us to respond to the consultation by Friday 17 August 2007.

The attached draft consultation has been produced by my officers and myself, and we have briefed Councillor Ranjit Banwait. The key elements in our response are that, in general, we welcome the changes proposed in the planning system, most of which have arisen as a result of the independent studies undertaken by Kate Barker, Rod Eddington, and others, on which you will have had discussions at the Three Cities and Six Cities Meetings. We expressed concerns about the following aspects:

- Brownfield land development relating to back gardens, as discussed recently at Planning Control Committee.
- The continuing reliance upon reward funding through the new Housing, and Planning Delivery Grant.
- The alternative scenario of the maximum and earliest increase in planning application fees, which we have requested should be as soon as possible and at 40%.

Our rationale is that planning application fee income should be sufficient to support our planning system in its totality, and that reward should be reward, and not a mainstay of our planning resource.

The electronic version of this memorandum has the White Paper itself attached, as well as our draft responses.

Please let me know if you require any further briefing, but otherwise please could you confirm that you are happy for me to submit this formally as our response to the consultation?