

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

OFFICER DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

Response to Consultation on proposed changes to National Planning Policy
15th April 2016

Background to the Decision

DCLG are currently consulting on comprehensive changes to national planning policy. The closing date for consultation responses is 15th April 2016.

A copy of the DCLG Consultation document was circulated to all Councillors. A detailed summary of the proposed changes was also circulated to all Councillors in the Local Association briefing which has just been issued. Page 5 of the briefing draws attention to the proposed changes to consultations with local councils on planning applications. NALC itself is intending to respond as the national body for local councils.

One response was received from a Councillor. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Plans & Environment Committee were consulted concerning the proposed response.

Authority for Decision

Specific Delegation 2 of the Delegated Powers to Officers under the Scheme of Delegation allows the Executive Officer & Town Clerk "To respond to consultation documents in consultation with the Leader of the Council and/or the relevant Standing Committee Chairperson or in their absence the relevant Deputy, where the consultation deadline is prior to the next meeting of the relevant Standing Committee".

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

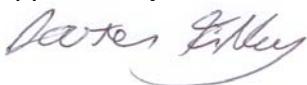
No alternative options were considered

Decision

That the following comments be submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of the consultation on proposed changes to National Planning Policy:

- a) "The renewed emphasis on Neighbourhood Planning is welcome and is a positive move"
- b) "There is concern about the impact of the fast track 'in principal' proposal on consultation with Parish/Town Councils. Since consulting with the community is optional, it is considered to be a negative development in planning policy, since the applications process would be fundamentally changed. The 'in principle' stage, with consultation, considering only location, use and numbers of housing units and then a 'technical details' stage (based on tightly defined information and when conditions and planning obligations could be set) when consulting with the community would be optional. It is recommended that Parish and Town Councils should be notified and consulted at both stages".

Approved By:



Darren Tilley

Date: 15th April 2016

Reasons for Decision

To enable points concerning Neighbourhood Planning and consultation responses to planning applications, which were of particular importance to Braunstone Town Council, to be conveyed.

List of Background Documents

- DCLG Consultation document - proposed changes to National Planning Policy
- Local Association briefing (LRALC)

NOTE:

CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998 (SECTION 17) – The Council has an obligation to consider Crime & Disorder implications of all its activities and to do all that it can to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area.

EQUALITIES ACT 2010

Braunstone Town Council has a duty in carrying out its functions to have due regard to:-

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and;
- foster good relations between different groups

To ensure that no person receives less favourable treatment on the basis of race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity.

These issues were considered in connection with each of the above decisions. Unless otherwise stated under each item of this report, there were no implications.