

# Delegated Decision Report

Decision below £250k



<b>Subject:</b>	Oldham Council's response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) consultation on proposed reforms to National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system.
<b>Decision maker: Senior Officer</b>	Harry Catherall, Chief Executive
<b>Decision maker: Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Elaine Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Decent Homes
<b>Decision date:</b>	23 September 2024
<b>Report author:</b>	Elizabeth Dryden-Stuart, Strategic Planning and Information Team Leader
<b>Ward (s):</b>	All wards

## Reason for decision

To approve Oldham Council's response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) consultation on proposed reforms to National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system.

## Recommendation(s)

To submit a response to the MHCLG consultation on 'Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system' as outlined in Appendix 1 attached to this report.

## Background

On 30 July 2024 MHCLG published details of their proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>).

As part of the consultation the following documents were published for comment:

- Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system;
- National Planning Policy Framework: draft text for consultation; and
- Outcome of the proposed revised method.

The consultation runs up to 24 September 2024.

### **Summary of key NPPF revisions and proposed consultation response**

There are a total of 106 questions that may be responded to. These are sub-divided into the following chapters:

- Chapter 3 - Planning for the homes we need
- Chapter 4 - A new Standard Method for assessing housing needs
- Chapter 5 – Brownfield, grey belt and the Green Belt
- Chapter 6 – Delivering affordable, well-designed homes and places
- Chapter 7 – Building infrastructure to grow the economy
- Chapter 8 – Delivering community needs
- Chapter 9 – Supporting green energy and the environment
- Chapter 10 – Changes to local plan intervention criteria
- Chapter 11 – Changes to planning application fees and cost recovery for local authorities related to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects
- Chapter 12 – The future of planning policy and plan making
- Chapter 13 – Public Sector Equality Duty

A summary of the key points is provided in italics at the start of each chapter / sub-chapter. This is then followed by the proposed response under each question. This is a GM response unless otherwise stated – there are instances where additional Oldham comments are provided, or where districts are responding individually (i.e. in relation to planning fees).

#### **Alternative option(s) to be considered** *(please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s))*

**Option 1** – To submit a response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) consultation on ‘Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system’ as outlined in Appendix 1 attached to this report.

Reason – the proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework will have significant implications for plan-making, particularly in relation to future housing need and Green Belt release, as well as fees for planning applications. It is important that Oldham Council provides its views on the proposed changes.

**Option 2** – To not respond to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) consultation on ‘Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system’.

Reason – the proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework will have significant implications for plan-making, particularly in relation to future housing need and Green Belt release, as well as fees for planning applications. Failure to submit comments to the consultation will Oldham Council loses its opportunity to influence future national planning policy.

**Consultation** (include any conflict of interest declared by relevant Cabinet Member consulted)

Not applicable.

**Risks**

Failure to submit comments to the consultation will Oldham Council loses its opportunity to influence future national planning policy.

**Implications**

Financial	There are no financial implications. (Mohammed Hussain)
Legal	In accordance with the Local Planning Scheme of Delegation approved in 2022, the approval of comments to relevant planning consultations on behalf of Oldham Council is delegated to the Executive Director in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member. (A Evans)
Equality impact including implications for Children and Young People	N/A
Other	N/A

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?	Yes
Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?	Yes
Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?	No

**Background Papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**


1. Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system;
2. National Planning Policy Framework: draft text for consultation; and
3. Outcome of the proposed revised method.

The above background documents are all available to view at  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>

## Appendix

1. Oldham Council's response to MHCLG's consultation on 'Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system'

Report author sign-off	Elizabeth Dryden-Stuart
Role	Strategic Planning and Information Team Leader
Date of sign-off	13/09/2024

Approval	
Officer approval sign-off	
Role	Chief Executive
Date of sign-off	23/09/2024

Approval	
Member(s) approval sign-off	 Cllr Elaine Taylor
Role	Deputy Leader/Cabinet Member for Decent Homes
Date of sign-off	23/09/24