

## **Motion – Planning Reforms**

The Council notes the announcement in the recent Queen’s Speech that the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government is to proceed with the reforms to the planning system set out in the 2020 White Paper “*Planning for the Future*”.

The Council responded to the Government’s consultation in October 2020, and regrets that the Government is pushing ahead with some reforms with which the Council previously expressed concerns, including:

- the proposal to grant automatic outline permission in certain circumstances;
- more centralised decision making, which would reduce local democratic input to planning decisions; and
- failure to acknowledge important local contexts.

The Council is concerned that the White Paper as published last year would lead to less local control and less accountability about planning decisions which fundamentally affect the lives of local residents and hopes that the Government will listen to the responses of this Council and others to the White Paper when forming its new legislation.

The Council urges the Leader and the Executive Member for Planning & Growth to work with stakeholders including the Town & Country Planning Association to continue to lobby Government to listen to the responses to the White Paper consultation and alter the reforms before they appear on the statute book.

Proposed by: Councillor Deering

Seconded by: Councillor Ward-Booth