

Title of Report	LEVELLING UP AND REGENERATION BILL: REFORMS TO NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY – RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION	
Presented by	Councillor Keith Merrie Planning and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder keith.merrie@nwleicestershire.gov.uk PH Briefed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Background Papers	Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy	Public Report: Yes
	National Planning Policy Framework	Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	At this stage it is considered that the financial implications of the proposals set out in the consultation would be likely to be neutral. Some aspects have the potential to result in costs savings, for example by minimising discussion at any Local Plan Examination. However, other aspects may require additional expenditure, for example commissioning consultants. This would need to be addressed as part of any future budget setting process. Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	The NPPF is material consideration when preparing Local Plans and in determining planning applications and so any changes will influence future Council decisions.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	None identified at this stage.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To outline proposals from government for further planning reforms by government and to agree a suggested response to go forward for consideration by Cabinet.	
Reason for Decision	To determine the Council's response to the consultation.	
Recommendations	THAT CABINET RESPONDS TO THE CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF THE LEVELLING UP AND REGENERATION BILL: REFORMS TO NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY AS SET OUT IN QUESTIONS 1 TO 58 ATTACHED AT APPENDIX A OF THIS REPORT.	

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 22 December 2022, the UK Government published a consultation document on the proposed reforms to National Planning Policy and a corresponding draft version of a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which sets out Government's planning policies for England. The consultation is open until 2 March 2023.

- 1.2 The consultation documents can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy>
- 1.3 The consultation and the suggested response are due to be considered by the Local Plan Committee at its meeting on 21 February 2023. A copy of that report is attached at Appendix A of this report. The views of the Local Plan Committee will be reported verbally to Cabinet at its meeting.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant, family-friendly town - Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs - Developing a clean and green district - Local people live in high quality, affordable homes - Our communities are safe, healthy and connected.
Policy Considerations:	The proposals outlined in the consultation have the potential to have a fundamental impact upon the Council's Local Plan, which is currently being reviewed.
Safeguarding:	No issues identified
Equalities/Diversity:	No issues identified
Customer Impact:	No issues identified
Economic and Social Impact:	A number of the proposals set out in the consultation have the potential for either economic or social impacts. These include (economic) support for small builders, seeking to boost economic growth and emphasising the importance of housing to support economic growth and meet the needs of local communities. Other proposed changes will have a social impact, including those relating to Neighbourhood Plans, support for community led housing and seeking more homes for social renting and for older persons.
Environment and Climate Change:	A number of the proposals included in the consultation have the potential to support the Council achieve its net zero carbon reduction aims, as well as enhancing biodiversity and improving the quality of new development.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	The consultation does not include any specific proposals in respect of how authorities consult or engage with their local communities. However, the proposed changes in respect of Neighbourhood Plans should make the preparation of such plans more attractive to local communities and potentially encourage a greater take up and engagement of local communities in planning.

Risks:	<p>The proposals set out in the consultation have potential resource implications for the Council.</p> <p>Depending upon the timing of any changes, there could be an impact upon the Local Plan review in terms of its scope, content and look. If transition arrangements are not put in place or are not robust, there is a risk that current work on the review could be jeopardised or lost. This matter will need to be kept under review.</p>
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