

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>1 August 2002</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>South Downs National Park</b> <b>Council's Response to Formal Consultation</b>
<b>Supplementary paper to the existing Agenda item.</b>	

Since publication of the Agenda, Central Government has published its intentions regarding the future of the planning system. Despite the results of the consultation exercise in which the majority view generally concluded that the current system did not require radical change, the Government have decided to bring in a new development plan system.

The new system abolished structure plans and local plans. It strengthens the regional plan with the next tier down, being the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDFs will replace local plans (i.e. Eastbourne Borough Plans).

The Consultation Document makes reference to the possibility of a new system, but accepts that as no legislation is in place, the consultation should be carried out on the existing planning system. The report does this but with the knowledge that a new planning system will now be progressed through Parliament, the response in the letter should contain a reference to this.

It is suggested that an extra paragraph be added at the end of the letter, as follows:-

“In the light of the Government’s recent announcement on changes to the planning system, the responses in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of this letter may be considered irrelevant. This Authority has not had the opportunity to consider the full impact of the proposed changes to the planning system and meet the Agency’s deadline for comments to be received on 16 August 2002. We would like to think that the Agency will explore the implication of the changes with our representatives in due course. However, in the spirit of our comments in paragraph 4 – 6 above, I would hope that the new National Park Authority will work jointly in a formal arena rather than on a voluntary basis, with the neighbouring local authorities, to produce the planning policy framework for the South Downs. This Authority does not want to see an insular, inward looking Park Authority. It needs to be fully and formally integrated with the surrounding administrations to ensure consistent strategic planning policies are successfully implemented.”

Jefferson F Collard

ACTING HEAD OF PLANNING