



Lewes District Council

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MINUTE EXTRACT

Cabinet - 17 October 2007

113 Housing Green Paper: Homes for the Future - More Affordable, More Sustainable

The Cabinet considered Report No 203/07 relating to proposed responses to the Government's Housing Green Paper consultation. A copy of the Green Paper Executive Summary was appended to the Report.

The Green Paper had been issued in July 2007. It wrapped up several recently announced housing and planning policy initiatives into a single document. As such, it did not contain much that was totally new, or had not been trailed before. However, it contained proposals which were of great interest to District Councils and some "spin-off" announcements and consultations that needed to be examined in order to obtain a broader picture of Government intentions.

Paragraph 2 of the Report set out details of the proposed responses to the Green Paper however, explanatory notes which were included for the benefit of councillors that were not part of the submission, were shown in italics. Such responses focused on issues that were of particular relevance to the Council and which were considered to be important to draw to the Government's attention.

The Green Paper also included some general comments on the Government's expectations of local authorities strategic housing role, further details of which were set out in paragraph 1.3 thereto.

Responses to the Government needed to be submitted by 15 October 2007. Therefore, a response, as set out in paragraph 2 of the Report, had been agreed with the Lead Councillors for Housing and Planning which had been submitted to meet the required deadline. In the event that the Cabinet was minded to amend any aspect of the response, then a follow up letter would be sent to the Government which would detail the changes to the earlier response.

The Director of Planning and Environmental Services drew Councillors attention to paragraphs 2.15 to 2.20 of the Report which related to

proposals in respect of the Planning Gain Supplement (PGS). He stated that, since the preparation of the Report, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had indicated that the Government would not now proceed with the PGS system and, instead, would introduce some form of "Planning Tariff", for which further proposals would be published in the forthcoming Planning Reform Bill.

Resolved:

- 113.1** That the responses that have been submitted to the Government to meet the deadline of 15 October 2007 in respect of its Housing Green Paper consultation, as set out in paragraph 2 of Report No 203/07, be endorsed; and
- 113.2** That matters relating to the provision of housing, including affordable housing, in the District, be the subject of discussion at the next meeting of the Council to be held on Tuesday, 4 December 2007.

Reason for the Decisions:

The Council's response to the proposals in the Housing Green Paper had to be submitted to the Government by 15 October 2007.