

Motion 2 – Government changes to our planning system

To be proposed by Councillor Banks and seconded by Councillor Makepeace

Preamble

The Council responded in October to the Government on the White Paper "Planning for the Future" consultation and the changes to the current planning system, including many objections and concerns.

It is recognised that there are many concerns being raised locally with Members which include:

- A proposed system of zoning in the White Paper - meaning it will reduce or remove the right of residents to object to applications near them and represents a "power grab" from local communities and democratically elected Councils.
- Plans to scrap the duty of developers to build affordable housing on sites for up to 40 or 50 homes which could mean that Lewes District Council could lose up to 37% of its affordable homes, based on past trends.
- Allowing upward extensions (outside of National Park area and Conservation Areas) for blocks of flats and for most homeowners, and that members will not be able to "call in" this type of development.
- An updated algorithm designed by government to set new prescriptive housing targets could see Lewes District Council being forced to more than double its target of new houses or flats being built to 800 a year.
- The impact on bio-diversity and nature - the changes risk watering down or removing the requirement altogether for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Assessments.
- The proposals do not sufficiently take into consideration the Climate Change Act provisions that address carbon dioxide emission standards for future housing stock.

Proposed Motion:

This Council resolves to use the existing comments submitted by Lewes District Council to:

1. Ask the Leader or Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure to write to and lobby both of our Members of Parliament, urging them to oppose the Government proposals; and
2. For the Council to continue to make representations against the proposals as already submitted by the Council and highlight those concerns with local residents.