

All Parish and Town Councils
via email

Date : 10 October 2024

Dear Parish or Town Council Clerk

Re: Draft revised National Planning Policy Framework and re-setting the Local Plan

As you are probably aware the government recently published for consultation its proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other planning reforms. Consultation closed on the 24th September and this Council responded to the consultation. The key messages of our response are set out in a report to Cabinet on 12th September and our asks of government are also outlined in a letter from Cllr Kevin Guy to the Deputy Prime Minister.

The proposed revisions to the NPPF and revised standard method housing figures have very significant implications for our Local Plan. The revised housing figures would increase our housing requirement by 104% from 717 per annum to 1,466. Proposed revisions to the NPPF also indicate other significant national policy changes.

As you will know we published a Local Plan Options document for consultation earlier this year. This Options document was based on planning for around 14,500 homes and this requirement would double under the revised housing target set by the government.

Whilst the proposed revisions are still in draft form we have decided that we need to re-set our Local Plan. This does not mean discarding the work we had done and the responses we have received to engagement on the plan. The options already considered and the comments submitted remain relevant and will inform the Local Plan moving forward. However, as some of the parameters, most notably, the housing figure, have changed it is necessary to undertake further evidence work and consider additional options.

The full programme for preparing the re-set Local Plan is still being developed. However, it is likely that we will undertake further options consultation next year before moving towards a Draft Local Plan.

I am writing to you to keep you informed and to ask that your parish and town councils as representatives of your local communities continue to work with the

Council on the Local Plan. It is vital that the plan addresses important local issues and it helps to ensure that we live in sustainable and healthy places. Community input is essential to helping to achieve this.

The Planning Policy team will be arranging a briefing on the NPPF revisions, implications for the Local Plan and next steps, and will be in touch soon with further details. In the meantime, it is important that those parishes that have been undertaking site assessments continue this work as it will still inform the Local Plan. If you have any queries in advance of the briefing please contact the Planning Policy team at planning_policy@bathnes.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt McCabe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Matt McCabe
Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Sustainable Development
Bath and North East Somerset Council