

Executive Report

Ward(s) affected: All

Report of Director of Strategy

Author: Stuart Harrison

Tel: 01483 444 512

Email: stuart.harrison@guildford.gov.uk

Lead Councillor responsible: Jan Harwood

Tel: 07507 505363

Email: jan.harwood@guildford.gov.uk

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## **Council resolution to request the Secretary of State to amend the National Planning Policy Framework and its guidance**

### **Executive Summary**

On 23 July 2019 the Council, along with many other councils including Surrey County Council, declared a Climate Emergency. As part of this resolution, the Council also committed to calling on the UK government to provide the powers, resources and funding support to make local, as well as national, action against climate change possible. A further motion was agreed by Full Council on 3 December 2019 that states:

*“The Council recognises that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has recently undergone a review. However, with the now declared Climate Emergency (subsequent to that review), and the widespread support of the principle of building on brownfield before greenfield sites wherever possible, the Council asks the Executive to request the Secretary of State to hold an immediate further review of the NPPF and its guidance to:*

- (1) Recognise the declared Climate Emergency and provide more detailed guidance on creating “sustainable development”, which takes into account the required actions on transport and development to meet Carbon Zero, for both brownfield and green field sites.*
- (2) Better assist with brownfield delivery by granting councils simple effective powers to bring forward currently, as well as previously, used sites.*
- (3) Amend Paragraph 145 of the NPPF – to correct the unintended consequences in Greenbelt areas of enabling unrestricted building of inappropriate houses through ‘infilling’, yet at the same time preventing residents from having a simple extension or garage for their own home.”*

**Recommendation to Executive:**

That the draft letter to the Secretary of State requesting a further review of the NPPF and its guidance, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, be finalised and sent by the Lead Councillor on behalf of the Executive to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

**Reason for Recommendation:**

To address the motion agreed by full Council on 3 December 2019.

**Is the report (or part of it) exempt from publication? No**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report provides a draft letter to enable the Executive to address the motion agreed by full Council on 3 December 2019.

**2. Strategic Priorities**

- 2.1 Requesting the Secretary of State to amend the NPPF and its guidance will help the Council meet its strategic priorities. Securing these amendments will respond to the declared Climate Emergency and promote development on brownfield land.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 On 23 July 2019 the Council, along with many other councils including Surrey County Council, declared a Climate Emergency. As part of this resolution, the Council also committed to calling on the UK government to provide the powers, resources and funding support to make local, as well as national, action against climate change possible. A further motion was agreed by Full Council on 3 December 2019 that states:

*“The Council recognises that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has recently undergone a review. However, with the now declared Climate Emergency (subsequent to that review), and the widespread support of the principle of building on brownfield before greenfield sites wherever possible, the Council asks the Executive to request the Secretary of State to hold an immediate further review of the NPPF and its guidance to:*

- (1) Recognise the declared Climate Emergency and provide more detailed guidance on creating “sustainable development”<sup>1</sup>, which takes into account the required actions on transport and development to meet Carbon Zero, for both brownfield and green field sites.*

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<sup>1</sup> NPPF – Paragraph 7 states: ‘the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’

*(2) Better assist with brownfield delivery by granting councils simple effective powers to bring forward currently, as well as previously, used sites.*

*(3) Amend Paragraph 145 of the NPPF – to correct the unintended consequences in Greenbelt areas of enabling unrestricted building of inappropriate houses through ‘infilling’, yet at the same time preventing residents from having a simple extension or garage for their own home.”*

3.2 A draft letter is included in Appendix 1. This retains the three aspects of the proposed review of the NPPF requested within the motion agreed by full Council; however, officers have supplemented each point with further justification in order to provide some contextual information.

#### **4. Consultations**

4.1 This content of the draft letter was discussed with the Lead Councillor for Planning, Regeneration and Housing Delivery.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 None.

#### **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 None.

#### **7. Human Resource Implications**

7.1 None.

#### **8. Equality and Diversity Implications**

8.1 None.

#### **9. Climate Change/Sustainability Implications**

9.1 The request seeks to respond to the Council’s declared Climate Emergency and brownfield first approach to new development.

#### **10. Summary of Options**

10.1 The Executive may choose to amend the contents of the draft letter prior to sending to the Secretary of State.

#### **11. Conclusion**

11.1 The report and Appendix 1 address the full Council resolution of 3 December 2019.

#### **12. Background Papers**

None.

**13. Appendices**

Appendix 1: draft letter to the Secretary of State.