

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Re-Establishment of the Cross-Party Working Group for Planning Policy</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>26 September 2019</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director, Economy, Environment &amp; Culture</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Helen Gregory</b>	<b>Tel: 01273 292293</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>(All Wards);</b>		

## **FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek agreement for the Cross Party Working Group for Planning Policy to be re-established to continue to assist with advising on future planning policy documents and guidance. The updated terms of reference are set out in Appendix 1.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the Committee agrees that a Cross Party Working Group for Planning Policy is set up in accordance with the terms of reference in Appendix 1.

### **3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 A Cross Party Working Group (“the CPWGP”) was set up in 2011 to assist with plan preparation. The purpose of the Group, as set out in the terms of reference (see Appendix 1), was to develop and implement the city’s Development Plans and other Planning Policy Guidance. Its other activities included partnership work with other agencies and bodies. The group has provided the opportunity to improve the involvement of councillors in plan preparation and helped to build consensus across planning policy issues. This has resulted in more effective plan preparation, more certainty in decision-making and helped deliver an adopted City Plan Part 1.
- 3.2 A review of elected member Working Groups has been undertaken in early 2019 and the outcome of the review reported at the 25 July Council meeting. The CPWGP (formally known as the LDF/City Plan Cross Party Working Group) was unintentionally missed off the list of working groups to be retained.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the CPWGP will be set up initially for a 12 month period but that it will then be added to the list of permanent elected member working groups when this is next reviewed and approved by Policy & Resources Committee.

3.4 The terms of reference have been revised and updated to be consistent with the recent review of elected member Working Groups.

#### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

4.1 The Committee can decide not to re-establish the Planning Policy Cross Party Working Group however since its establishment in 2011 it has provided a helpful mechanism to build cross party consensus and reduce uncertainty when key decisions on the City Plan and other planning documents are made.

#### **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

5.1 The general principles around the role and number of elected member Working Groups were considered by the Cross-Party Constitutional Working Group.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

6.1 Approving the re-establishment of the Planning Policy Cross Party Working Group will enable policy options to be discussed during the early stages of plan preparation therefore reducing uncertainty when key decisions are made.

6.2 The continuation of the Cross Party Working Group will help to build cross party consensus during development plan preparation.

#### **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

7.1 Any costs associated with the Planning Policy Cross Party Working Group will be met from existing budgets within Planning.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Jessica Laing*

*Date: 22/07/19*

##### Legal Implications:

7.2 The Council's constitution provides for working groups to be set up in connection with Council functions. Permanent groups must be established by the Policy and Resources Committee.

*Lawyer Consulted: Hilary Woodward*

*Date: 25/7/19*

##### Equalities Implications:

7.3 The proposed Cross Party Working Group, by providing representation across the Parties and promoting partnership working, will help to improve consideration of equalities issues in future development plans.

##### Sustainability Implications:

7.4 There are no sustainability implications in relation to the proposals contained in the report.

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 None

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

1. Planning Policy Cross Party Working Group Terms of Reference

**Background Documents**

1. 25 July 2019 Council – Review of the Constitution
2. 21 July 2011 Council – Withdrawal of Core Strategy to Update and Amend

