

**Government Consultation on Streamlining Information Requirements for
Planning Applications**

Report by Head of Development Management

Summary:	This report informs the Committee of a consultation recently received from the Government.
Recommendation:	That the report be noted and the nature of proposed responses be endorsed.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Government has recently issued more of a series of consultations on proposals to simplify and relax planning controls in the interests of economic growth. This particular consultation proposes the streamlining of information requirements for planning applications.
- 1.2. Details of the consultation and a draft response is set out below.

ORGANISATION:	Department for Communities and Local Government
DOCUMENT:	Streamlining information requirements for planning applications
LINK	http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/streamlininginfoconsultation
RECEIVED:	29 June 2012
DUE DATE:	11 Sept 2012
STATUS:	Newly Received
PROPOSED LEVEL:	Officer
NOTES:	<p>This is one of a series of current consultations on 'streamlining' the planning system in the interests of economic growth. Others are assessed separately by the Planning Policy Officer. This consultation is in three parts as follows.</p> <p>1. Currently, applicants for planning permission can submit an 'outline' planning application which seeks to establish the principle of the acceptability of the proposed development. Whilst an outline application does not have to provide full details of the proposal, basic information regarding the layout, scale (and maximum/minimum size of buildings) and access is</p>

	<p>required. The consultation covers whether or not this basic requirement should be removed.</p> <p>2. Currently, the information that is required to support a planning application is set by the Local Planning Authority. An LPA is required to publish this list on its website and to ensure that the requirements are proportionate. The consultation covers whether or not an LPA should be required to republish their local validation list every 2 years.</p> <p>3. Currently, an application for planning permission is required to be accompanied by a Certificate stating whether or not the land is an Agricultural Holding. The consultation covers whether or not this requirement should be removed.</p>
<p>PROPOSED RESPONSE:</p>	<p>The proposed responses are as follows:</p> <p>1. The information required to support an 'outline' planning application is basic, and provided the requirements are properly and proportionately interpreted by an LPA they should not be onerous for an applicant. It is difficult to assess even an outline application without some basic information as the location and scale of buildings on a site will affect, inter alia, their visual impact and the effect on neighbours, whilst the location of the access will effect highway safety. It is considered that the existing minimum requirements should be retained.</p> <p>2. An LPA should regularly review its validation requirements and the proposal to make this mandatory is reasonable.</p> <p>3. The removal of the requirement to complete an agricultural holding certificate to support a planning application does not impact adversely on the planning process.</p>

2 Financial Implications

2.1 There are no financial implications to the provision of the consultation response.

Background papers: None

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Appendices: None