

15 MARCH 2018

PC06-18 | NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

Summary

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) refresh is primarily focused on housing and ways to deliver the government's target of 300,000 homes per annum. It includes a standardised methodology for calculating housing need and contains – amongst other things – policies on housing delivery tests, affordable housing, home ownership, densification and design.

It also contains a proposal that Local Plans and other strategic plans are reviewed “at least once every five years”, bringing with it the requirement for a renewal of Neighbourhood Plans at the same time, and it strengthens the ‘duty to co-operate’ imposed on principal authorities and requires them to prepare statements of common ground.

The housing White Paper “Fixing our broken housing market” sets out a comprehensive strategy to tackle the housing shortage. This comprised planning for the right homes in the right places, building homes faster, diversifying the market and helping people now. Further detail on a number of these reforms was set out in “Planning for the right homes in the right places” in September 2017. The Government is announcing further progress on turning this strategy into reality, comprising a draft new National Planning Policy Framework building on the first Framework published in 2012. The draft new Framework implements the Government's reforms to planning policy. The Government is currently consulting on the proposals in the draft Framework; and the Government intends to publish the final Framework before the summer. The main consultation document is [here](#).

Consultation questions

This consultation contains 43 questions – many of which are not directly relevant to the parish sector. The questions highlighted below are not only those for which NALC already has policies but those which might have a significant effect on many local councils. Based on standing and emerging NALC policy we have tried to isolate the current policy areas likely of most direct relevance to parishes in the draft NPPF document and are intending to respond to the associated most relevant national parish consultation questions as below;

2. Do you agree with the changes to the sustainable development objectives and the presumption in favour of sustainable development?

4. Do you have any other comments on the text of Chapter 2, including the approach to providing additional certainty for neighbourhood plans in some circumstances?
5. Do you agree with the further changes proposed to the tests of soundness, and to the other changes of policy in this chapter [3] that have not already been consulted on?
6. Do you have any other comments on the text of Chapter 3?
7. The revised draft Framework expects all viability assessments to be made publicly available. Are there any circumstances where this would be problematic?
11. What are your views on the most appropriate combination of policy requirements to ensure that a suitable proportion of land for homes comes forward as small or medium sized sites?
15. Do you agree with the policy changes on supporting business growth and productivity, including the approach to accommodating local business and community needs in rural areas?
16. Do you have any other comments on the text of chapter 6?
21. Do you agree with the changes to the transport chapter that point to the way that all aspects of transport should be considered, both in planning for transport and assessing transport impacts?
22. Do you agree with the policy change that recognises the importance of general aviation facilities?
23. Do you have any other comments on the text of Chapter 9?
25. Do you agree with the proposed approaches to under-utilised land, reallocating land for other uses and making it easier to convert land which is in existing use?
26. Do you agree with the proposed approach to employing minimum density standards where there is a shortage of land for meeting identified housing needs?
27. Do you have any other comments on the text of Chapter 11?
30. Do you agree with the proposed changes to enable greater use of brownfield land for housing in the Green Belt, and to provide for the other forms of development that are 'not inappropriate' in the Green Belt?

31. Do you have any other comments on the text of Chapter 13?

34. Do you agree with the approach to clarifying and strengthening protection for areas of environmental importance in the context of the 25 Year Environment Plan and national infrastructure requirements, including the level of protection for ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees?

35. Do you have any other comments on the text of Chapter 15?

Your Views

Please email your responses to this consultation to chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk by 17.00 on Friday 20 April 2018.

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