

# **National Planning Policy Framework**

**13 June 2011**

**Version 4**

Proposed changes following comments from other Departments marked in track

# Introduction

## Objectives for the planning system

1. Planning helps shape the places where people live and work and the country we live in. Planning can play a vital role in building our economy and supporting strong and vibrant communities.
2. The Government expects the planning system to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs, while protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment<sup>1</sup>. Planning has a key role in securing and delivering a sustainable future.
3. Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs<sup>2</sup>. It is central to the economic, environmental and social success of the country and is the core principle underpinning planning. Simply stated, the principle recognises the importance of ensuring that all people should be able to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, both now and in the future. For the planning system, in particular, sustainable development means:
  - **planning for prosperity [an economic role]** - using the planning system to help build a strong, flexible and sustainable economy by providing infrastructure and development fit to meet the country's current and future needs in a world of challenging global competition;
  - **planning for people [a social role]** - using the planning system to help promote strong, vibrant communities by providing an increased supply of housing to meet the needs of present and future generations; and creating a good quality built environment, with accessible local services, that delivers the diverse requirements of a community; and
  - **planning for places [an environmental role]** - using the planning system to help tackle climate change and adapt to its effects; to protect and enhance our natural and built environment; and to use natural resources prudently.
4. These objectives should be pursued in an integrated way, looking for solutions which deliver multiple goals. In principle, there is no contradiction between facilitating increased levels of development and the environmental role of planning, as long as development is planned and undertaken responsibly. The planning system must play an active role in guiding development to sustainable solutions, mitigating significant impacts and promoting positive strategies for environmental enhancement.

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<sup>1</sup> See glossary for definition

<sup>2</sup> The Report of the Brundtland Commission, *Our Common Future*, 1987

5. To deliver these objectives the country needs a transparent, effective and efficient planning system that will ensure the public interest is protected. This is achieved through a system based on:
  - national policies which set out the Government's economic, social and environmental priorities and how these are expected to be addressed;
  - local and neighbourhood plans, which empower local people to shape their surroundings; and
  - development management, which allows planning applications to be considered on their merits, within this national and local policy framework.
6. Those responsible for bringing forward development are expected to play their part by recognising and responding to the needs of communities. Development will be expected to be of good design and appropriately located. National incentives and relevant local charges will help ensure local communities benefit directly from the increase in development that this Framework seeks to achieve. The revenue generated from development will help sustain local services, fund infrastructure and deliver environmental enhancement.
7. The notion that economic growth necessarily leads to environmental degradation must be firmly laid to rest by ensuring that development is undertaken responsibly and that it generates benefits which help secure local economic, social and environmental objectives.
8. Enabling the delivery of the homes, infrastructure and work places that the country needs in a sustainable way, therefore, is the principal function of the planning system. A positive planning system is essential because, without growth, a sustainable future cannot be achieved. This means that the Government expects the planning system to pro-actively encourage growth to meet the needs of business: to increase the supply of housing that the country needs; and to ensure the timely provision of necessary infrastructure. Planning must operate to encourage growth and not act as an impediment. This must start from a positive assumption about development, to create certainty and confidence for national and local investment.
9. Planning must be positive, proactive, simple, and free from bureaucratic barriers.

### **The role of the National Planning Policy Framework**

10. This Framework sets out the Government's economic, environmental and social priorities for England and explains how planning can help ensure a pattern of development that matches these priorities, whilst meeting local aspirations.

11. These priorities are made clear in the objectives for the planning system set out above and in the core planning principles set out below - and they are elaborated in a short series of policies for each principal topic area, which follow.
12. This Framework sets out the Government's priorities only to the extent that it is relevant, proportionate and necessary to do so. It provides a framework within which local people and their accountable local governments can produce their own distinctive Local and Neighbourhood Plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.
13. The Framework and the expectations it places on the planning system will play a key role in supporting sustainable development.
14. Development of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects is subject to specific policies set out in National Policy Statements. However, the Framework is capable of being an important and relevant consideration in these decisions.
15. The policies set out in this Framework apply to the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and are a material consideration which must be taken into account in development management decisions.

## Delivering sustainable development

### Sustainable development and planning

16. The Government is committed to ensuring that the planning system does everything it can to support long term, sustainable economic growth, and has made it clear that significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic recovery through the planning system and related consent regimes.
17. Our approach to sustainable development involves making the necessary decisions now to realise our vision of stimulating economic growth and tackling the deficit, maximising wellbeing and protecting our environment, without negatively impacting on the ability of future generations to do the same.
18. The three 'pillars' of the economy, society and environment are interconnected. Our long term economic growth relies on protecting and enhancing the environmental resources that underpin it, and paying due regard to social needs.
19. To help achieve this, the Government's clear expectation is that we move to a system where the default answer to development is "yes", except where this would compromise the key sustainable development principles set out in national planning policy. Planning should help to deliver:
  - a strong, flexible and sustainable economy, by ensuring that sufficient land- of of the right type, and in the right places, is available to allow growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;
  - protection and enhancement of our natural and historic environment, prudent use of natural resources and actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. including moving to a low carbon economy: and
  - strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing an increased supply - - of housing to meet the needs of present and future generations: and by creating a good quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect community needs and support well-being.

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### The presumption in favour of sustainable development

20. At the heart of the planning system is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan making and decision taking. Local planning authorities should plan positively for new development, and approve all individual proposals wherever possible. Local planning authorities should:

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- prepare focal plans on the basis that objectively assessed development needs should be met, and with sufficient flexibility to respond to rapid shifts in demand or other economic changes;
- approve development proposals that accord with statutory plans without delay; and
- grant permission where the plan is absent, silent, indeterminate or where relevant policies are out of date.

21. All of these policies should apply unless the adverse impacts of allowing development would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.

22. The application of this presumption will also have implications for how communities engage in neighbourhood planning. Critically, it will mean that neighbourhoods should:

- develop plans that support the strategic development needs set out in Local Plans, including policies for housing and economic development;
- plan positively to support local development, with the power to promote more development than is set out in the Local Plan; and
- grant automatic planning permission for developments that are consistent with an adopted neighbourhood plan through neighbourhood development orders.

**Core planning principles**

23.A set of core land-use planning principles should underpin both plan-making and development management and should be taken into account by all those engaged in the planning system, from inspectors through to communities. These principles are key to building a planning system that makes the best use of land to deliver sustainable development:

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- planning should be genuinely plan-led, with succinct Local Plans setting out a positive long term vision for an area. These plans should be kept up to date and should provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a high degree of certainty and efficiency;
- ,planning ,should proactively ,drive and support, the development that country needs. Every effort should be made to identify and meet the housing, business, and other development needs of an ,area, and respond', \. positively to wider opportunities for growth;
- the planning regime must take into account local circumstances and market signals such as land prices, commercial rents and housing affordability. Plans should set out a clear strategy for allocating sufficient

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land which is suitable for development in their area, taking account of the needs of the residential and business community;

- in considering the future use of land, planning policies and decisions „should take account of its environmental quality or potential quality regardless of its previous or existing use;
- planning strategies and decisions should seek to protect and enhance environmental and heritage assets of real importance. Where practical and consistent with other objectives, allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value;
- to get the most out of their available land, planning policies and decisions „should:
  - promote **mixed use developments** that create more vibrant places; and
  - encourage **multiple benefits** from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production);
- planning policies and decisions „should enable the reuse of existing resources, such as through the **conversion of existing buildings**, and encourage, rather than restrict, the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy);
- the planning regime „should actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest use of public transport and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable; and
- planning policies and decisions should always seek to secure a good standard of amenity for existing and future occupants of land and buildings.

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### Local Plans

24. Development plans must aim to achieve the objective of sustainable- - development. To this end, they must be consistent with the objectives, principles and policies set out in this Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This means that plans should seek to restrict development only where the adverse impacts of allowing development would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the Framework taken as a whole.
25. Each local planning authority should produce a Local Plan for its area.-- This can consist of one or more development plan documents setting out the policies and proposals for development and use of land across its

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area, which can be reviewed in whole or in part to respond flexibly to changing circumstances.

26. Beyond this, additional development plan documents or supplementary-- planning documents should only be necessary where their production can help to bring forward sustainable development at an accelerated rate. Supplementary planning documents must not be used to add to the financial burdens on development.

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27. Local Plans should be aspirational but realistic. They should address the.-- - spatial implications of economic, social and environmental change. Local Plans should set out the opportunities for development and clear guidance on what will or will not be permitted and where. Only policies that provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development proposal should be included in the plan.

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28. Local planning authorities should set out the strategic priorities for the - -- - area in the Local Plan. This should include policies to deliver:

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- housing and economic development requirements;
- the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;

the provision of infrastructure for transport, minerals, waste, energy, telecoms, water supply and water quality;

the provision of health, security, community infrastructure and other local facilities: and

- climate change mitigation and adaptation, landscape and biodiversity protection and enhancement, and, where relevant, coastal management.

29. Crucially, Local Plans should:

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- plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in its area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of this Framework;
- be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15 year time horizon, take account of longer term requirements, and be a living document that is kept up to date;
- indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land use designations on a proposals map;
- allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, providing detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate;

- identify areas where it may be necessary to limit freedom to change the uses of buildings and support such restrictions with a clear explanation;
- identify land which it is genuinely important to protect from development, for instance because of its environmental or historic value; and
- contain a clear strategy for the environmental enhancement of its area.

30. Local Plans are the key to delivering development that reflects the vision and aspiration of local communities. To do this, early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses is essential. A wide section of the community should be proactively engaged, so that Local Plans, as far as possible, reflect a collective vision and a set of agreed priorities for the development of the area, including adopted neighbourhood plans.

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31. Up to date Local Plans, ie. Local Plans which are consistent with this Framework, should be in place as soon as practical. In the absence of an up to date and consistent plan, planning applications will be determined in accord with this Framework, including its presumption in favour of sustainable development.

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32. It will be open to local authorities to seek a certificate of conformity with the Framework or to prepare a new or revised plan.

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### Using a proportionate evidence base

*[DN.. we are working through a more detailed check and assessment of the proposed evidence requirements]*

33. Each local planning authority should ensure that the Local Plan is based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area. Local planning authorities should ensure that their assessment of and strategies for housing, employment and other uses are integrated, and that they take full account of relevant market and economic signals such as land prices to inform judgements about levels of demand.

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### *Housing requirements*

34. Local planning authorities should have a clear understanding of housing requirements in their area. They should:

- prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to assess their full housing requirements, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The SHMA should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to require over the plan period which:

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meets household and population projections, taking account of migration;

- addresses the need for all types of housing, including affordable housing; and  
caters for housing demand and the scale of housing supply necessary to meet this demand.
- prepare a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) to establish realistic assumptions about the availability, suitability and the likely economic viability of land to meet the identified requirement for housing over the plan period.

*Business requirements*

35. Local planning authorities should have a clear understanding of business needs within the economic markets operating in and across their area. To achieve this, they should:

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- work together with county and neighbouring authorities and with local enterprise partnerships to prepare and maintain a robust evidence base to understand both existing business needs and likely changes in the market; and
- work closely with the business community to understand their changing needs and identify and address barriers to investment, including a lack of housing, infrastructure or of viability.

36. Local planning authorities should use this evidence-base to assess:

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- the requirements for land or floorspace for economic development, including both the quantitative (how much) and qualitative (what type) requirements for all foreseeable types of economic activity over the plan period, including for retail and leisure development;
- the existing and future supply of land available for economic development and its sufficiency and suitability to meet the identified requirements. Reviews of land available for economic development should be undertaken at the same time as, or combined with, strategic housing land availability assessments and should include a reappraisal of the suitability of previously allocated land;
- the role and function of town centres and the relationship between them, including any trends in the performance of centres;
- the capacity of existing centres to accommodate new town centre development; and
- locations of deprivation which may benefit from planned remedial action.

*Infrastructure requirements*

37. Local planning authorities should with other authorities and providers-- assess the quality and capacity of transport, water, energy, telecoms,

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utilities and flood defence infrastructure and its ability to meet forecast demands. In the context of energy infrastructure, planning policies and decisions should be based on up-to-date information about the current and future energy needs of the area, but also take account of the need for nationally significant infrastructure within their areas.

*Minerals requirements*

38. Local authorities should use the best available information to develop an & - - maintain an understanding of the extent and location of mineral reserves in their areas and assess the projected demand for their use.

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*Environmental assessment*

39. Planning policies and decisions should be based on up-to-date information about the natural and local environment of the area. A sustainability appraisal should be an integrated part of the plan preparation process. It must consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors.

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40. Local Plans may require a variety of other environmental assessments, including under the Habitats Regulations where there is a likely significant effect on a European wildlife site (which may not necessarily be within the same local authority area) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Wherever possible, assessments should share the same evidence base and be conducted over similar timescales, but local authorities should take care to ensure that the purposes and statutory requirements of different assessment processes are respected.

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41. Assessments should be proportionate to the plan. They should not repeat the assessment of higher level policy. Wherever possible the local planning authority should consider how the preparation of any assessment will contribute to the plan's evidence base. The process should be started early in the plan-making process and key stakeholders should be consulted in identifying the issues that the assessment must cover.

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*Waste infrastructure requirements*

42. Local authorities should work with neighbouring authorities to develop a clear understanding of the capacity of waste infrastructure in their areas and its ability to meet projected increases in waste.

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*Heritage*

43. Local planning authorities should have evidence about the historic environment in their area and use it to assess the significance of heritage assets and the contribution they make to their environment. Local planning authorities should either maintain or have access to a historic environment record.

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*Defence and national security requirements*

44. Local planning authorities should ensure that they take account of the needs of defence and national security.

### Ensuring viability and deliverability

45. To enable a plan to be **deliverable**, the sites and the scale of development- identified in the plan should not be subject to such a scale of obligations and policy burdens that their ability to be developed viably is threatened. To ensure viability, the costs of any requirements likely to be applied to development, such as requirements for affordable housing, local standards, infrastructure contributions or other requirements should, when taking account of the normal cost of development and on site mitigation, provide acceptable returns to a willing land owner and willing developer to enable the development to be deliverable.

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46. Local planning authorities, parishes and neighbourhood forums should assess the likely cumulative impacts on development in their area of all existing and proposed local standards, supplementary planning documents, and policies that support delivery of the development plan, when added to nationally required standards. In order to be appropriate, the cumulative impact of these standards and policies should not put the delivery of the development plan at serious risk. Local planning authorities should ensure continued development will be facilitated across the economic cycle.

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47. This assessment should, at the least, take account of:

- the likely net costs of national required standards;
- the likely net costs of existing and proposed local standards and policies;
- the likely net costs of Community Infrastructure Levy or policies requiring the provision of affordable housing through planning obligations; and
- any other significant costs likely to be imposed by plan policies.

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48. Evidence supporting the assessment should be proportionate, using only appropriate available evidence.

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49. It is equally important to ensure that there is a reasonable prospect that--planned infrastructure is deliverable in a timely fashion. To facilitate this, it is important that local planning authorities understand district wide development costs at the time Local Plans are drawn up. For this reason, infrastructure and development policies should be planned at the same time, in the Local Plan. Any affordable housing or local standards requirements that may be applied to development should be assessed at the plan-making stage, where possible, and kept under review.

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### Planning strategically across local boundaries

50. Public bodies have a duty to co-operate on planning issues that cross-administrative boundaries, particularly those which relate to the **strategic priorities** identified above. The Government expects joint working around areas of common interest to be diligently undertaken for the mutual benefit of neighbouring authorities.

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51. Local planning authorities should work collaboratively with other bodies to - ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly ,co.ordinated and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans. They should take account of different geographic areas, including travel to work areas. In two tier areas, county and district authorities should cooperate with each other on relevant issues. Local planning authorities and local enterprise partnerships should work collaboratively on strategic planning priorities to enable delivery of sustainable economic growth.

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52. Local planning authorities will be expected to demonstrate evidence of- having successfully co-operated to plan for jssues with cross boundary impacts when their Local Plans are submitted for examination. This could be by way of plans or policies prepared as part of a joint committee, a memorandum of understanding or a jointly prepared strategy which is presented as evidence of an agreed position. Cooperation should be a continuous process of engagement from initial thinking through to implementation resulting in a final position where plans are in place to provide the infrastructure necessary to support current and projected future levels of development.

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53. Joint working should enable local planning authorities to work together to meet development requirements which cannot wholly be met within their own areas — for instance, because of a lack of physical capacity or because to do so would cause significant harm to the objectives, principles and policies of this Framework. As part of this process they should consider producing joint planning policies on strategic matters and informal strategies such as joint infrastructure and investment plans.

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#### Examining Local Plans

54. The Local Plan will be examined by an independent inspector whose role- - is to assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements, and whether it is sound. A local planning authority should submit a plan for examination which it considers is "sound" — namely that it is:

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- POSITIVELY PREPARED — the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is practical to do so consistently with the presumption in favour of sustainable development;
- JUSTIFIED — the plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;
- EFFECTIVE — the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross boundary strategic priorities; and

- CONSISTENT WITH NATIONAL POLICY — the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework.

### Neighbourhood plans

55. Neighbourhood plans give communities direct power to plan the areas in which they live. Parishes and neighbourhood forums can use neighbourhood plans to:

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- develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood;
- set planning policies for the development and use of land; and
- give planning permission through Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders.

56. This provides a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community. However, the ambition of the neighbourhood should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area. Neighbourhood plans, therefore, must be in conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. To facilitate this, local planning authorities should set out clearly their strategic policies for the area. Neighbourhood plans should reflect these policies and neighbourhoods should plan positively to support them. Neighbourhoods will have the power to promote more development than is set out in the strategic policies of the Local Plan.

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57. Outside these strategic elements, neighbourhood plans will be able to shape and direct development in their area, subject to the presumption in favour of sustainable development. When a neighbourhood plan is made, the policies it contains will take precedence over existing policies in the Local Plan for that neighbourhood. Therefore, local planning authorities should avoid duplicating planning processes for non-strategic policies where a neighbourhood plan is in preparation.

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Policies which deliver the strategic priorities of the Local Plan should be considered strategic policies in all neighbourhood areas. Local planning authorities should set out their interpretation of the strategic policies of the Local Plan to guide neighbourhood planning in their area.

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58. A neighbourhood plan should be assessed by an independent examiner before it can go to a local referendum. To pass the independent examination, the neighbourhood plan should be:

- consistent with the policies in this Framework
- in conformity with the strategic policies in the Local Plan; and
- compatible with relevant EU obligations and human rights requirements.

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### Tailoring planning controls to local circumstances

59. Local planning authorities should consider using Local Development-Orders to relax planning controls for particular areas or categories of development, where the impacts would be acceptable, and in particular where this would boost enterprise and growth. The use of article 4 directions to remove national permitted development rights should be limited to situations where this is necessary to protect local amenity or the wellbeing of the area (this could include the use of article 4 directions to require planning permission for the demolition of local facilities). Similarly, planning conditions should not be used to restrict national permitted development rights unless there is clear justification to do so.

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### Development management

60. The primary objective of development management is to foster the delivery\* - - of sustainable development, not to hinder or prevent development.

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61. To enable each local authority to proactively fulfil their planning role, and- to actively promote sustainable development, local planning authorities need to:

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- approach development management decisions positively — looking for solutions rather than problems so that applications can be approved wherever it is practical to do so;
- attach significant weight to the benefits of economic and housing growth;
- influence development proposals to achieve quality outcomes; and
- enable the delivery of sustainable development proposals.

62.The relationship between development management and plan making should be seamless and both should recognise the presumption in favour of sustainable development and the positive approach to planning set out in this Framework. The application of the presumption is expected to achieve the delivery of enhanced levels of development consistent with national, strategic and local requirements.

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### Pre-application engagement and front loading

63. Early 'front loading' of the process has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussions enable better coordination between public and private investment and improved outcomes for the community. Local planning authorities should strongly encourage prospective developers to consult them at the pre-application stage. They should also strongly encourage all applicants, not just those required to do so by law, to undertake pre-application consultation with communities, where appropriate.

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64. The right information is crucial to good decision making, particularly where formal assessments are required (such as Environmental Impact Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Flood Risk Assessment). To avoid delay, developers should discuss what information is needed with the local planning authority and expert bodies as early as possible. Local planning authorities should publish a list of their information requirements for planning applications, which should be proportionate to the nature and scale of development proposals. Local planning authorities should only request supporting information that is relevant, necessary and material to the application in question.

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66. Developers and local planning authorities should consider the potential of - - entering into planning performance agreements, where this might achieve a faster and more effective application process.

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66. For their role in the planning system to be effective and positive, statutory.- consultees will need to take the same early and pro-active approach to their involvement in development proposals, providing advice in a timely manner at all stages of the development process. This assists local planning authorities in issuing timely decisions, helping **to** ensure developers do not experience unnecessary delays and costs.

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### Determining applications

67.The planning system is plan-led. Therefore Local Plans, incorporating neighbourhood plans where relevant, are the starting point for the determination of any planning application.

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68. In assessing and determining development proposals, local planning. authorities should apply the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This means taking a positive approach to applications, and looking to approve proposals wherever possible. The presumption establishes a clear expectation that acceptable development should always be approved and not unnecessarily delayed. Applications should never be refused simply because a plan is in preparation.

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69. In all cases, these expectations should apply, unless to do so would cause- - significant harm to the objectives, principles and policies of this Framework.

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### Financial considerations

I 70. It **is** legitimate for financial considerations (for example the New Homes.- - Bonus and the Community Infrastructure Levy) to be taken into account in the determination of planning applications, provided they are material to the application being determined. To be material, a financial consideration (like any other consideration) must relate to the development and use of land and be relevant to the development being considered.

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71. In considering this, local planning authorities should not take an overly-cautious approach. Openness and transparency are, though, essential: Local planning authorities may want to ensure their reports to Planning Committee, and their decision notices, refer to any financial incentives that have been considered and how they relate to the planning merits of the application - as they would with any other material consideration.

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### **Neighbourhood Development Orders**

72. Neighbourhoods can use neighbourhood development orders to grant planning permission. Developments that are permitted through a neighbourhood development order should not require further planning permission from local planning authorities, unless the order sets out specific conditions that must be considered by the council.

### **Planning conditions and obligations**

73. Local authorities should actively consider whether otherwise unacceptable development could be made acceptable through the use of conditions or planning obligations. Planning obligations should only be used where it is not possible to address the matter through a planning condition.

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1 74. Planning obligations should only be sought where they meet all of the\* - following tests:

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- necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- directly related to the development; and
- fair and reasonably related in scale and kind of development.

75. Planning conditions should only be imposed where they are necessary,- - enforceable, precise and reasonable in all other respects. The following types of planning conditions should not be imposed:

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- reserving for later approval a matter submitted as part of an outline application (unless it is clear any detail was submitted for illustrative purposes only);
- requiring completion of a whole development (unless justified by special circumstances);
- requiring land to be formally given up to other parties; or
- requiring payment, except where there is specific statutory authority to do so.

76. Permission should not normally be granted subject to a condition that the\* - applicant enters into a planning obligation under section 106 of the Act or an agreement under other powers.

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77. Local planning authorities should avoid unnecessary conditions obligations, particularly when this would undermine the viability of development proposals.

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## PART 1: PLANNING FOR PROSPERITY

### Business and economic development

#### Objectives

78. The Government is committed to securing sustainable economic growth. - - In particular, there is an urgent need to restructure the economy, to build on the country's inherent strengths and to meet the twin challenges of global competition and of a low carbon future.

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79. To help achieve sustainable economic growth, the Government's• - objectives are to:

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plan proactively to meet the development needs of business and support an economy fit for the 21" century;

- promote the vitality and viability of town centres, and meet the needs of consumers for high quality and accessible retail services; and
- raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas by promoting thriving, inclusive and locally distinctive rural economies.

#### Support economic development

80. In preparing their Local Plans, local planning authorities should ensure that- -- investment in business is not over burdened by the combined requirements of planning policy expectations. Local Plans should also recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including poor environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing. In drawing up their Local Plans, local planning authorities should ensure that they:

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- set out a clear economic vision and strategy for their area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth;
- set criteria, or identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated requirements over the plan period:
- support existing business sectors, taking account of whether they are expanding or contracting and, where possible, identify and plan for new or emerging sectors likely to locate in their area. Policies should be flexible enough to accommodate requirements not anticipated in the plan and to allow a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances;
- positively plan for the location, promotion and expansion of clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries;

- identify priority areas for economic regeneration, infrastructure provision and environmental enhancement; and
- facilitate new working practices such as live/work.

81. In considering applications for planning permission, local planning authorities should apply the presumption in favour of sustainable development, and seek **to** find solutions to overcome any substantial planning objections where practical and consistent with the Framework.

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Deleted: take a positive attitude to proposals for economic investment

82. Planning authorities should avoid the long term protection of employment. land or floorspace and treat applications for alternative uses of designated land or buildings on their merits having regard to market signals and the relative need for different land uses.

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### Promote the vitality and viability of town centres

83. Local planning authorities should plan positively to promote competitive town centre environments and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period. As part of their strategy local planning authorities should:

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- recognise town centres as **the** heart of their communities and pursue policies to support the viability and vitality of town centres;
- define a network (the pattern of provision of centres) and hierarchy (the role and relationship of centres in the network) of centres that is resilient to anticipated future economic changes;
- define the extent of the town centre and the primary shopping area, based on a clear definition of primary and secondary frontages in designated centres, and set policies that make clear which uses will be permitted in such locations;
- recognise that residential development can play an important role in ensuring the vitality of centres and set out policies to encourage residential development on appropriate sites;
- allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, commercial, community services and residential development required in town centres. This should include an assessment of the need to expand defined town centres to ensure a sufficient supply of suitable sites. It is important that retail and leisure needs are met in full and are not compromised by limited site availability. Planning authorities, therefore, should undertake an assessment of the need to expand town centres to ensure a sufficient supply of suitable sites;
- allocate appropriate edge of centre sites where suitable and viable town centre sites are not available, and if sufficient edge of centre sites

be identified, set policies for meeting the identified requirements in other accessible locations; and

- set policies for the consideration of retail and leisure proposals which cannot be accommodated in or adjacent to town centres.

84. Local planning authorities should apply a sequential approach to planning-applications for retail and leisure uses that are not in an existing centre and are not in accordance with an up to date Local Plan.

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85. Local planning authorities should prefer applications for retail and leisure. uses to be located in town centres where practical, then in edge of centre locations and only if suitable sites are not available should out of centre sites be considered. In applying this sequential approach local planning authorities should ensure that potential sites are assessed for their availability, suitability and viability and for their ability to meet the full extent of assessed quantitative and qualitative needs.

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86. When assessing applications for retail and leisure development outside of - town centres, which are not in accordance with an up to date Local Plan, local planning authorities should require an impact assessment if the development is over a proportionate, locally set floorspace threshold. If there is no locally set threshold, the default threshold is 2,500 sq m.

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87.1n assessing the impact of retail and leisure proposals, authorities should. - consider:

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- the impact of the proposal on existing, committed and planned public and private investment in a centre or centres in the catchment area of the proposal; and
- the impact of the proposal on town centre vitality and viability, including local consumer choice and trade in the town centre and wider area, up to five years from the time the application is made.

### Support the rural economy

88. Local planning authorities should support sustainable economic growth in rural areas by taking a positive approach to new development. They should set strategies to maintain a prosperous rural economy including policies to:

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- support the sustainable growth of rural businesses;
- promote the development and diversification of agricultural businesses;.  
- and
- support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit-rural businesses, communities and visitors and which respect the character of the countryside. This should include supporting the provision

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and expansion of tourist and visitor facilities in appropriate locations where identified needs are not met by existing facilities in rural service centres.

# Transport

## Objectives

89. Transport policies have an important role to play in facilitating development but also in contributing to wider sustainability objectives. There is a need to balance the transport system in favour of sustainable transport modes and give people a real choice about how they travel. However, the Government recognises that different policies and measures will be required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas.

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90. Where practical, encouragement should be given to solutions which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion. The planning system should therefore support a pattern of development which, where reasonable to do so, facilitates the use of, sustainable modes

of transport, -----

91. To this end, the objectives of transport policy are to: -----

- facilitate economic growth by taking a positive approach to planning for development; and
- support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion, and promote accessibility through planning for the location and mix of development.

Facilitate economic growth

92. Local authorities should work with neighbouring authorities and transport providers to develop strategies for the provision of viable infrastructure necessary to support sustainable economic growth, including large scale facilities such as Rail Freight Interchanges, supporting motorway infrastructure or transport investment necessary to support strategies for the growth of ports, airports or other major generators of travel demand in their areas.

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93. Planning applications for all developments that generate significant amounts of movement, as determined by local criteria, should be supported by a Transport Statement or Transport Assessment. In determining applications local planning authorities should consider whether:

- the opportunities for sustainable transport modes, have been taken P - depending on, the nature and location of the site;
- safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all people;

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improvements can be undertaken within the local transport network. that cost effectively limit the significant impacts of the development and, subject to those considerations, not refuse planning permission on transport grounds unless the residual impacts of development are so severe that planning permission should not be granted having regard to the need to encourage increased delivery of homes and sustainable economic development.

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94. Local authorities should, when planning for ports, airports and airfields that are not subject to a separate NPS, ensure that the Local Plan considers:

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- their growth and role in serving business, leisure, training and emergency service needs;
- the economic, environmental and social impacts on the local and wider economy; and
- policies set out elsewhere in this Framework and as well as the principles set out in the relevant national planning statements.

#### Support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion

95. Local authorities should plan for developments that generate significant movement to be located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be maximised. However this needs to take account of policies set out elsewhere in this Framework, particularly in rural areas.

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96. Local Plan strategies should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. Therefore, developments should be located and designed where practical to:

- give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements;
- have access to high quality public transport facilities;
- create safe and secure layouts which minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians;
- incorporate facilities for charging electric and other low emission vehicles; and
- consider the needs of disabled people by all modes of transport.

97.; key tool to facilitate, this will be a Travel Plan. Local authorities should require all developments which generate significant amounts of movement, as determined by local criteria, to provide a Travel Plan.

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98. Local planning authorities should aim for a balance of land uses within their area so that people can be encouraged to minimise journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities.

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99. or larger scale residential developments in particular, local authorities.— should promote a mix of uses in order to provide opportunities to undertake day to day activities including work on site. Where practical, particularly within large scale developments, local authorities should plan to locate key facilities such as primary schools, local shops and healthcare within walking distance of most properties.

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100. Local planning authorities should ensure that parking standards, as- part of a package of planning and transport measures, promote sustainable transport choices.

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101. When setting local standards for residential and non-residential-- - development, local planning authorities should take into account:

- the accessibility of the development;
- the type, mix and use of development ;
- local car ownership; and
- an overall need to reduce the use of high-emission vehicles.

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the car where practical.

102. Local planning authorities should identify and protect, where there is robust evidence, existing and proposed sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice.

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## Communications infrastructure

### Objectives

103. Advanced, high quality communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth. The development of high speed broadband technology and other communications networks also play a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services. The Government's objective for the planning system is to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunication systems in order to ensure that people have a choice of providers and services, and equitable access to the latest technology.

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### Facilitate the growth of communications infrastructure

104. In preparing Local Plans, local planning authorities should support the expansion of the electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband. In doing this, planning authorities should aim to keep the numbers of radio and telecommunications' masts and the sites for such installations to a minimum, by using existing masts, buildings and other structures, unless there is a clear justification for allocating new sites. Where new sites are required, equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged.

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105. Local planning authorities should not impose a ban on new telecommunications' development in certain areas, impose blanket Article 4 directions over a wide area or wide range of telecommunications development or insist on minimum distances between new telecommunications development and existing development. They should ensure that:

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- communications infrastructure does not cause significant and irremediable interference with other electrical equipment, air traffic services or instrumentation operated in the national interest; and,
- construction of new buildings or other structures does not cause interference with broadcast and telecommunications services.

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106. Applications for telecommunications development (including for prior approval under Part 24 of the General Permitted Development Order) should be supported by the necessary evidence to justify the proposed development. This should include:

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- the outcome of consultations with organisations with an interest in the proposed development, in particular with the relevant body where a mast is to be installed near a school or college; and
- for an addition to an existing mast or base station, a statement that self-certifies that the cumulative exposure, when operational, will not exceed

International Commission on non-ionising radiation protection guidelines;  
or

- for a new mast or base station, evidence that the applicant has explored the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure and a statement that self-certifies that, when operational, International Commission guidelines will be met.

1 107. Local planning authorities should not question whether the service to-be provided is needed nor seek to prevent competition between operators, but must determine applications on planning grounds.

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# Minerals

## Objectives

108. Minerals are essential to support sustainable economic growth. **It is** therefore important that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. The Government's objective for the planning system is to:

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- secure an adequate and steady supply of indigenous minerals needed to support sustainable growth, whilst encouraging the recycling of suitable materials to minimise the requirement for new primary extraction; and
- facilitate sustainable use of energy minerals.

### Secure an adequate supply of minerals

109. In preparing minerals plans local planning authorities should:

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- liaise with neighbouring authorities to co-ordinate the planning of locally important minerals or with more distant authorities where those authorities also host minerals of greater than local importance;
- not identify sites or extensions to existing sites for peat extraction;
- plan for a steady and adequate supply of land-won aggregates by:
  - taking full account of the proposed apportionment of aggregates in the current National and Regional Guidelines, as agreed by Aggregate Working Parties;
  - ensuring that planned quantitative allocations of minerals take account of the ability for requirements to be met from sustainable sources, including recycling; and
  - allocating sufficient land to maintain sufficient landbanks of permitted reserves and to use these to indicate when new permissions for extraction are likely to be needed;
- ensure security of supply of specific minerals to support their likely use in manufacturing processes and energy generation taking account of any national forecasts of requirements and the importance of avoiding local as well as wider scarcity of supply, specifically by
  - close liaison with other planning authorities where the minerals exists to manage extraction rates and, where appropriate, to encourage safeguarding or stockpiling so that important minerals remain available for use;

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allocating sufficient land to maintain landbanks of permitted reserves-recognising that it is normally appropriate to ensure landbanks of 7 years of sand and gravel and 10 years for crushed rock and scarcer minerals, although longer land banks may be justified in specific circumstances, such as the need to ensure the viability of proposed new investment.

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110. Local planning authorities should:

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- ensure sufficient levels of permitted reserves are available from outside National Parks, the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and World Heritage sites;
- ensure that large landbanks bound up in very few sites do not stifle competition;
- define Minerals Safeguarding Areas in order that proven resources are not needlessly sterilised by non-mineral development, whilst not creating a presumption that resources defined will be worked. In doing so extend any necessary safeguarding to include

existing, planned and potential rail heads, rail links to quarries, wharfage and associated storage, handling and processing facilities for the bulk transport by rail, sea or inland waterways of minerals, including recycled, secondary and marine-dredged materials;

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- existing, planned and potential sites for concrete batching, of coated materials, other concrete products and the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material; and

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known locations of specific minerals of local and national importance. These include aggregates, brickclay (especially Etruria Marl and fireclay), silica sand (including high grade silica sands), salt, fluorspar, coal, kaolin, ball clay, potash and local minerals of importance to the built heritage;

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- contain policies to encourage the prior extraction of minerals, where practicable, if it is necessary for non-mineral development to take place in Minerals Safeguarding Areas;
- set out environmental criteria, in line with the policies in this Framework, against which planning applications will be assessed so as to ensure that permitted operations do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the environment or human health, including from dust, tip- and quarry-slope stability, differential settlement of quarry backfill and migration of contamination from the site; and
- put in place policies to ensure worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity, taking account of aviation safety, and that high quality

restoration and aftercare of mineral sites takes place, including for agriculture, biodiversity, native woodland and recreation.

111. When determining planning applications, planning authorities should:

- give significant weight to the benefits of the mineral extraction, including -- to the economy;
- ensure in granting planning permission for mineral development that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on the environment, cultural heritage or human health, and bear in mind the cumulative effect of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or from a number of sites in a locality;
- ensure that any unavoidable noise, dust and particle emissions and any blasting vibrations caused by mineral extraction are controlled, mitigated or removed at source, and establish appropriate noise limits for extraction in proximity to noise sensitive properties;
- not grant planning permission for peat extraction from new or extended sites;
- provide for restoration to be carried out to high environmental standards, through the application of appropriate conditions, where necessary;
- not normally permit other development proposals near safeguarded sites where they might constrain future use for these purposes; and
- consider allowing small-scale extraction of building stone at, or close to relic quarries, some of which have been designated, where it would contribute to the repair of historic buildings without compromising the requirement to protect designated sites.

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**Facilitate sustainable use of energy minerals**

112. In addition to the general policies on minerals, local authorities should: 4

- encourage underground gas and carbon storage if local geological circumstances indicate its feasibility;
- encourage capture and use of methane from coal mines in coalfield areas;
- when planning for on-shore oil and gas development, clearly distinguish between the three phases (exploration, appraisal and production) and address constraints on production and processing within areas that are licensed for oil and gas exploration or production; and

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- provide for coal producers to extract separately, and if necessary stockpile, fireclay reserves so that it remains available for use; and
- indicate any areas where coal extraction and the disposal of colliery spoil may be acceptable.

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113. When determining planning applications, planning authorities should - ensure that the integrity and safety of underground storage facilities are appropriate, taking into account the maintenance of gas pressure, prevention of leakage of gas and the avoidance of pollution.

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114. For the extraction of coal, there should be a presumption against - development unless:

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- the proposal is environmentally acceptable, or can be made so by planning conditions or obligations; or, if not
- it provides national, local or community benefits which clearly outweigh the likely impacts to justify the grant of planning permission.

## PART 2: PLANNING FOR PEOPLE

### Housing

#### Objectives

[ON: Content of section subject to further discussion with housing officials]

115. The Government's key housing objective is to increase significantly „the.: delivery of new homes. Everyone should have the opportunity to live in high quality, well designed homes, which they can afford, in a community where they want to live. This means.:

- increasing the supply of housing;
- delivering a wide choice of high quality homes that people want and need;
- widening opportunities for home ownership; and
- creatjng sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities., **includingthrough** the regeneration and renewal of areas of poor housing.

116. To enable this, the planning system should aim to deliver a sufficient quantity, quality and range of housing consistent with the land use principles and other polices of this Framework.

#### Significantly increasing the supply of housing

117. To boost the supply of housing, local planning authorities should:

- use an evidence-base to ensure that their Local Plan meets the full requirements for market and affordable housing in the housing market area, including identifying key sites which are critical to the delivery of the housing strategy over the plan period;
- identify and maintain a rolling supply of specific deliverable<sup>3</sup> sites sufficient to provide 5 years worth of housing against their housing requirements. The supply should include an additional allowance of at least 20% to ensure choice and competition in the market for land;

~~To be considered deliverable, sites should~~ at the point of adoption of the Local Plan be available now, offer a suitable location for development now, and be achievable with a realistic prospect that housing will be delivered on the site within five years and in particular that development of the site is viable ie that it would provide acceptable returns to a willing landowner and a willing developer based on current values and taking account of all likely infrastructure, standards and other costs.

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- identify a supply of specific, developable<sup>4</sup> sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6-10 and, where possible, for years 11-15;
- not include windfall sites in the first 10 years of supply, or in the rolling 5 year supply, unless they can provide compelling evidence of genuine local circumstances that prevent specific sites being identified. Any allowance should be realistic having regard to the SHLAA, historic windfall delivery rates and expected future trends;
- illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery through a housing trajectory for the plan period and, for market housing, set out a housing implementation strategy describing how they will maintain delivery of a 5 year supply of housing land to meet their housing target;
- set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances; and
- identify and bring back into residential use empty housing and buildings in line with local housing and empty homes strategies and, where appropriate, acquire properties under compulsory purchase powers.

118. The presumption in favour of sustainable development means that local plans should be prepared on the basis that objectively assessed development needs should be met. Applications should be considered in accordance with the presumption. Planning permission should be granted where relevant policies are out of date, for example where a local authority cannot demonstrate an up to date 5-year supply of deliverable housing sites.

### **Deliver a wide choice of quality homes**

119. To deliver a wide choice of quality homes and widen opportunities for - home ownership, local planning authorities should:

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- plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community (such as families with children, the elderly, disabled people);
- identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations, reflecting local demand; and
- where affordable housing is required, set policies for meeting this need on site, unless off-site provision or a financial contribution of broadly equivalent value can be robustly justified and the agreed approach contributes to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities.

<sup>4</sup> To be considered developable, sites should be in a suitable location for housing development and there should be a reasonable prospect that the site is available and could be viably developed at the point envisaged.

## Create sustainable communities

120. To create sustainable and inclusive communities, local planning\* - authorities should:

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- create a shared vision with local communities of the types of residential environment they wish to see;
- plan positively for the integration of community infrastructure and other services to enhance the sustainability of residential environments;
- ensure that housing is developed in suitable locations which offer a range of community facilities and good access to key services and infrastructure; and
- where large scale development is proposed in less sustainable locations, planning authorities should require investment to improve the sustainability of the site.

121. In rural areas, local planning authorities should be responsive to local\* - and circumstances and allow housing development and the growth of villages to reflect local requirements for market and affordable housing.

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122. However, local planning authorities should avoid isolated homes in the countryside unless there are special circumstances such as:

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- the essential need for a worker to live permanently at or near their place of work in the countryside; or
- where the development would re-use redundant or disused buildings and lead to an enhancement to the immediate setting; or
- where development would ensure the future of buildings of special architectural or historic interest or
- the exceptional quality or the innovative nature of the design of the dwelling. Such a design should:
  - be truly outstanding or innovative, helping to raise standards of design more generally in rural areas;
  - reflect the highest standards in architecture;
  - significantly enhance its immediate setting; and
  - be sensitive to the defining characteristics of the local area.

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123. Local authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to the development of schools by working with schools promoters to identify and resolve key issues before applications are submitted. In determining planning applications, local authorities should:

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- attach very significant weight to the desirability of establishing new schools and to enabling local people to do so;
- adopt a positive and constructive approach towards applications to create new schools and seek to mitigate any negative impacts of development through the use of planning conditions or planning obligations, as appropriate; and

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only refuse planning permission for a new school if the adverse planning impacts on the local area outweigh the desirability of establishing a school in that area.

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124. Control over outdoor advertisements should be efficient, effective and simple in concept and operation. Only those advertisements which will clearly have an appreciable impact on a building or on their surroundings should be subject to the local planning authority's detailed assessment. Advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety. *[DN reviewing positioning of these last two para.s]*

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# Design

## Objectives

[DN: Content of section subject to further discussion with housing officials]

125. The Government attaches great importance to the design of the built- environment. Good design is indivisible from good planning and should contribute positively to making places better for people. The government's objective for the planning system is to promote good design that ensures attractive, usable and durable places. This is a key element in achieving sustainable development.

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### Deliver high quality design

I 126. Planning authorities should plan positively for the achievement of high- quality and inclusive design for all development, including individual buildings, public and private spaces and wider area development schemes.

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127. ~~Local Plans, including any neighbourhood plans,,should,develop robust'~~ and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that ' ,--- will will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated\_ \\, objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its present defining characteristics. Policies in development plans and decisions on applications should aim to ensure that developments:

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- are sustainable, durable and adaptable and make efficient and prudent use of resources;
- ensure that a place will function well and add to the overall character and quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;
- optimise the potential of the site to accommodate development, create and sustain an appropriate mix of uses (including incorporation of green and other public space as part of developments) and support local facilities and transport networks;
- respond to their local context;
- create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and
- are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping.

128. Design policies should avoid unnecessary prescription or detail and- - should concentrate on guiding the overall scale, density, massing, height,

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landscape, layout and access of new development in relation to neighbouring buildings and the local area more generally.

129. Planning policies and decisions „should not attempt to impose... architectural styles or particular tastes and they should not stifle innovation, originality or initiative through unsubstantiated requirements to conform to certain development forms or styles.

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130. Although visual appearance and the architecture of individual buildings are important factors, securing high quality and inclusive design goes beyond aesthetic considerations. Therefore, planning policies and decisions should address the connections between people and places and the integration of new development into the natural and built environment.

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131. Local planning authorities should have local Design Review arrangements in place to assist the assessment and support for ensuring high standards of design. They should also be in a position to refer major projects for a National Design Review<sup>s</sup> when they consider this appropriate.

132. Permission should be refused for development of obviously poor... design that fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions.

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133. Where design of a particularly high quality is proposed, including innovative design, its development should be encouraged, unless there is a compelling reason not to do so which is consistent with this Framework.

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134. Developers will be expected to work closely with those directly affected by their proposals to evolve design proposals that take account of the views of the community. They should also recognise the benefits of considering the views of professional bodies. Proposals that can demonstrate good engagement with the community in developing the design of the new development should be looked on more favourably.

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<sup>s</sup> Currently provided by Design Council Caba

## Green Belt

### Objectives

135. The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.

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136. Green Belt serves five purposes:

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- to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment; to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and

to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

137. Once Green Belts have been defined, local authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; retain and enhance landscapes and biodiversity; or improve damaged and derelict land.

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### Designation of Green Belts

**138. The general extent of Green Belts across the country is already- - established. It should not be necessary to designate new Green Belts except in exceptional circumstances. If proposing a new Green Belt, local planning authorities should:**

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- **demonstrate why normal planning and development management policies would not be adequate;**
- **set out whether any major changes in circumstances have made the adoption of this exceptional measure necessary;**
- **show what the consequences of the proposal would be for sustainable development;**
- **demonstrate the necessity for the Green Belt and its consistency with Local Plans for adjoining areas; and**
- **show how the Green Belt would meet the other objectives of the Framework.**

139. Local planning authorities with Green Belts in their area should -- establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans which set the framework for Green Belt and settlement policy. Once established, Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances.

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140. The appropriateness of existing Green Belt boundaries should only be -- considered when a Local Plan is being prepared or reviewed. At that time, authorities should consider the Green Belt boundaries having regard to their intended permanence in the long term, so that they should be capable of enduring beyond the plan period.

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141. When drawing up or reviewing Green Belt boundaries local planning authorities should take account of the need to promote sustainable patterns of development. They should consider the consequences for sustainable development of channelling development towards urban areas inside the Green Belt boundary, towards towns and villages inset within the Green Belt or towards locations beyond the outer Green Belt boundary.

142. When defining boundaries, local planning authorities should:

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- ensure consistency with the Local Plan strategy for meeting identified requirements for sustainable development;
- not include land which it is unnecessary to keep permanently open;
- where necessary, identify in their plans areas of 'safeguarded land' between the urban area and the Green Belt, in order to meet longer-term development needs stretching well beyond the plan period;
- make clear that the safeguarded land is not allocated for development at the present time. Planning permission for the permanent development of safeguarded land should only be granted following a local plan review which proposes the development;
- satisfy themselves that Green Belt boundaries will not need to be altered at the end of the development plan period; and
- define boundaries clearly, using physical features that are readily recognisable and likely to be permanent.

143. If it is necessary to prevent development in a village primarily because - of the important contribution which the open character of the village makes

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to the openness of the Green Belt, the village should be included in the Green Belt. If, however, the character of the village needs to be protected for other reasons, other means should be used, such as conservation area or normal development management policies, and the village should be

144. Inappropriate development is, by definition to the Green Belt\_ - and should not be approved except in very special circumstances.

Deleted: There is a general presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt; such development should not be approved except in very special circumstances.

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146. When considering any planning application, local planning authorities-• should ensure that substantial weight is given to any harm to the Green Belt. 'Very special circumstances' will not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.

146. A local planning authority should regard the construction of new. - buildings as inappropriate in Green Belt. Exceptions to this are:

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- buildings for agriculture and forestry;
- provision of appropriate facilities for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation and for cemeteries, as long as it preserves the openness of the Green Belt and does not conflict with the purposes of including land within it;
- the extension or alteration of a building provided that it does not result in disproportionate additions over and above the size of the **original** building;
- the replacement of a building, provided the new building is not materially larger than the one it replaces;
- limited infilling in villages, and limited affordable housing for local community needs under policies set out in the Local Plan; or
- limited infilling or the partial or complete redevelopment of previously developed sites (excluding temporary buildings), whether redundant or in continuing use, which would not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt and the purpose of including land within it than the existing development.

I 147. Certain other forms of development are also not inappropriate in Green-  
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provided they preserve the openness of the Green Belt and do not conflict with the purposes of including land in Green Belt. These are:

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- mineral extraction;
- engineering operations;
- local transport infrastructure which can demonstrate a requirement for a Green Belt location; and
- the re-use of buildings provided that the buildings are of permanent and substantial construction.

148. When located in the Green Belt, elements of many renewable energy— projects will comprise inappropriate development. In such cases developers will need to demonstrate very special circumstances if projects are to proceed. Such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources.

*[DN: add policy on Community Right to Build]*

## PART 3: PLANNING FOR PLACES

### Climate change, flooding and coastal change

#### Objectives

149. The Government's objective is that planning should fully support the transition to a low carbon economy in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. To achieve this objective, the planning system should aim to:

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secure, consistent with the Government's published objectives, radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through the appropriate location and layout of new development and support for energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;

- minimise vulnerability and provide resilience to impacts arising from climate change;
- actively support the delivery of renewable and low-carbon energy;
- avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding by directing development away from areas at highest risk or where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere; and
- reduce risk from coastal change by avoiding inappropriate development in vulnerable areas or by adding to the impacts of physical changes to the coast.

150. To this end, local planning authorities should adopt proactive strategies-- to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

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#### Support cuts in greenhouse gas emissions

I 151. To support the move to a low-carbon economy, local planning-- authorities should:

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- plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- when setting any local requirement for a building's sustainability, do so in a way consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy and adopt nationally described standards.

152. Local planning authorities should not refuse planning permission for-- well-designed buildings or infrastructure which promote high levels of sustainability because of concerns about incompatibility with an existing townscape unless the concern relates to a heritage asset protected by a

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national designation and the impact would cause material harm to the asset or its setting, and this harm is not outweighed by the proposal's wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

**Support the delivery of renewable and low-carbon energy**

153. To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low-carbon energy, local planning authorities should recognise the responsibility on all communities to contribute to energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources and:

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- identify and map significant opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy, taking account of matters such as ecological sensitivity, air quality and noise impacts as well as generation potential;

have a positive strategy to promote energy from renewable sources and design their policies to maximise renewable and low-carbon energy development; and

identify opportunities where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers.

154. When determining planning applications, planning authorities should:

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- look favourably on developments that have demonstrable carbon benefits°;
- avoid stifling innovation, including by not rejecting proposals for renewable energy solely because they are outside of an area identified for energy generation;
- give significant weight to the wider environmental, social and economic benefits of renewable or low-carbon energy projects whatever their scale, recognising that small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions;
- not presume against energy development outside mapped areas nor require applicants for energy development to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low-carbon energy or question the energy justification for why a proposal for renewable and low-carbon energy must be sited in a particular location; and

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- be satisfied applicants for wind energy development have consulted with aviation stakeholders to verify the potential impacts.

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For wind energy development, the approach to assessment and policies set out in the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure should be used.

~~take account of the guidance included in the Overarching Energy National Policy Statement.~~

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## Minimise vulnerability to climate change and manage the risk of flooding

155. To support the move to a low-carbon economy, local planning authorities should plan new development to avoid increased vulnerability to impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, authorities should ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure.

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156. Local Plans must be supported by strategic flood risk assessment and develop policies to manage flood risk, taking account of advice from the Environment Agency.

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157. Local plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid flood risk to people and property where possible, and manage any residual risk. taking account of the impacts of climate change, by:

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- applying the Sequential Test<sup>8</sup>;
- if necessary, applying the Exception Test<sup>9</sup>;
- safeguarding land from development that is required for current and future flood management;
- using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and of flooding; and
- where climate change is expected to increase flood risk so that some existing development may not be sustainable in the long-term, seeking opportunities to facilitate the relocation of development, including housing to more sustainable locations at less risk from flooding. *[DN: drafting of this paragraph to be refined]*

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158. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should only consider development in flood risk areas appropriate where informed by a site-specific flood risk assessment (FRA)<sup>10</sup> following the Sequential Test, and if required the Exception Test, it can be demonstrated that:

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should only consider development in flood risk areas appropriate where informed by a site-specific flood risk assessment (FRA)<sup>10</sup> following the Sequential Test, and if required the Exception Test, it can be demonstrated that:

<sup>8</sup>The aim of the Sequential Test is to steer new development to areas at the lowest probability of flooding. Development should not be allocated or permitted if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding. The SFRA will provide the basis for applying the Sequential Test. A sequential approach should be used in areas known to be at risk from other forms of flooding.

The Sequential Test should not be applied to minor development and changes of use.

<sup>9</sup> If, following application of the Sequential Test, it is not possible, consistent with wider sustainability objectives, for the development to be located in zones with a lower probability of flooding, the Exception Test can be applied if appropriate. For the Exception Test to be passed:

- a) it must be demonstrated that the development provides wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh flood risk, informed by a SFRA where one has been prepared; and
- b) a FRA must demonstrate that the development will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall. Both elements of the test will have to be passed for development to be allocated or permitted. <sup>10</sup> An FRA is required for proposals of 1 hectare or greater in Flood Zone 1 and all proposals for new development [including minor development and change of use] located in Flood Zones 2 and 3 and Critical Drainage Areas, and also where proposed development or a change of use to a more vulnerable class may be subject to other sources of flooding.

- within the site, the most vulnerable development is located in areas of lowest flood risk unless there are overriding reasons to prefer a different location; and

development is appropriately flood resilient and resistant, including safe-access and escape routes where required, and that any residual risk can be safely managed; and it gives priority to the use of sustainable drainage systems (SUDs).

159. For individual developments on sites allocated in development plans through the Sequential Test, applicants need not apply the sequential test. Applications for minor development and changes of use should not be subject to the Sequential or Exception Tests but should still meet the requirements for FRAs.

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### Manage risk from coastal change

**160. Local planning authorities should identify as a Coastal Change - Management Area (CCMA) any area likely to be affected by physical changes to the coast. Planning authorities should:**

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- be clear as to what development will be appropriate in such areas and in what circumstances; and
- make provision for development and infrastructure that needs to be relocated away from CCMA's.

**161. When assessing applications, authorities should consider development in a CCMA appropriate where it is demonstrated that:**

- it will be safe over its planned lifetime and will not have an unacceptable impact on coastal change;
- the character of the coast including designations is not compromised;
- the development provides wider sustainability benefits; and
- the development does not hinder the creation and maintenance of a continuous signed and managed route around the coast.

162. Local planning authorities should also ensure appropriate development in a CCMA is not impacted by coastal change by limiting the planned lifetime of the proposed development through temporary permission and restoration conditions where necessary to reduce the risk to people and the development.

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## Natural and local environment

### Objectives

163. The Government's objective is that planning should help to deliver a - - healthy natural environment for the benefit of everyone and safe places which promote wellbeing.

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164. To achieve this objective, the planning system should aim to conserve.- - and enhance the natural and local environment by:

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- protecting valued landscapes;
- minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity, where possible;
- delivering open spaces and sport and recreation facilities that everyone can enjoy; and
- preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of land, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.

165. In preparing their Local Plans to meet development requirements, local— planning authorities should seek to minimise adverse effects on the local and natural environment, preferring the allocation of land with the least environmental or amenity value where that is practical having regard to other policies in the Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This means that plans should seek to restrict development only where the adverse impacts of allowing development would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the Framework taken as a whole.

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166. To this end, local planning authorities should set criteria based policies - - against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife sites, landscape areas or sites designated for their amenity value will be judged. Distinctions should be made between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites:l. \_

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Comment [1311: Add in footnote / specific reference to SSSIs

### Protect valued landscape

167. Local planning authorities should:
- set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans. planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of green infrastructure;

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<sup>11</sup> ODPM Circular 06/2005 provides further guidance in respect of statutory obligations for biological conservation and their impact within the planning system.

maintain the natural character of the undeveloped coast, protecting and enhancing its distinctive landscapes, particularly in areas defined as Heritage Coast, and improve public access to and enjoyment of the coast;

- in coastal areas, take account of marine plans and apply Integrated Coastal Zone Management across local authority and land/sea boundaries;
- take into account the economic benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Where significant development of agricultural land **is** unavoidable, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality, except where this would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations or the Local Plan's growth strategy and where poorer quality land is unavailable or unsuitable;
- give great weight to protecting landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage are important considerations in all these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. Planning permission should be refused for major developments in designated areas except in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated they are in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:

the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;

- the cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the designated-area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and
- \* any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.

### **Minimise impacts on biodiversity**

168. Local planning policies should:

- take account of the need to plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries;
- promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats and the recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and

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local targets<sup>12</sup>; and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan; and

identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including: international, national and local sites of importance for biodiversity, and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation.

169. When determining planning applications in accordance with the Local Plan and the presumption in favour of sustainable development, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying the following principles:

- if significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated against, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be permitted;
- opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged;
- planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss;
- the following wildlife sites should be given the same protection as European sites:
  - potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;
  - listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and
  - sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

**Deliver open spaces and facilities for recreation or sport**

170. Local planning authorities should:

- identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in their areas;

<sup>12</sup> Including those identified by local biodiversity partnerships

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- use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities.

171. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, - including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss.

I 172. Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be - able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. An essential characteristic of Local Green Spaces is their permanence and they should be planned so that their protection can endure beyond the end of the plan period.

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I 173. The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most most'-- green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

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- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance because of its beauty, historic importance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife;
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land; and

if the designation does not overlap with Green Belt.

174. Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space- should be consistent with policy for Green 0040. -----

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Comment [R2]: Text on Green Space designation subject to further discussion across Departments

**Preventing unacceptable risks from pollution and land instability**

175. Local planning authorities should ensure that:

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- new development which may give rise to pollution, either directly or indirectly, is appropriately located having regard to the effects on health, the natural environment or general amenity, taking account of the potential sensitivity of the area to adverse effects from pollution; and
- the site is suitable for its new use taking account of ground conditions, pollution arising from previous uses and any proposals for land remediation.

176. In doing so, local planning authorities should focus on whether the development itself is an acceptable use of the land, and the impact of the use, rather than the control of processes or emissions themselves where these are subject to other pollution control regimes. Planning authorities should assume that these regimes will operate effectively. Equally, where a planning decision has been made on a particular development, that decision should carry substantial weight with other public authorities. Planning issues should not be revisited through other regimes.

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177. Local planning authorities should:

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- ensure that, wherever practicable, noise-sensitive developments are separated from major sources of noise and new development involving noisy activities should, if possible, be sited away from noise-sensitive land uses;
- acknowledge that much of the development needed to sustain — economic development will create some noise, and where it is not possible to achieve a separation of land uses, consider whether it is practicable to control or reduce noise levels, or to mitigate the impact of noise, through the use of conditions<sup>13</sup>; and
- identify and protect areas of tranquility which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise nuisance and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason.

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## Waste

178. The Framework does not contain specific waste policies, since national waste planning policy forms part of the National Waste Management Plan for England. However, local authorities preparing waste plans should have regard to policies in this Framework.

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<sup>13</sup> Applicable standards and the approach to be taken into account in determining planning applications both for noise sensitive developments and for those activities which generate noise, including mineral working and wind energy developments will be provided in technical guidance.

## **Historic Environment**

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### **Objectives**

**179. The Government's overarching aim is that the historic environment and - its heritage assets should be conserved and enjoyed for the quality of life they bring to this and future generations.**

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180. To achieve this, the Government's objectives for planning for the- historic environment are to:

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- conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance; and
- contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past by capturing evidence from the historic environment and making this publicly available, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

### **Conserve heritage assets**

j 181. Local planning authorities should set out a strategy for the conservation- and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In developing this strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:

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- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring; and
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local distinctiveness.

182. When considering the designation of conservation areas, local planning- authorities should ensure that an area justifies such status and that the concept of conservation areas is not devalued through the designation of areas that lack special interest.

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183. In determining ppplications, local planning authorities should require an..: - applicant to describe the significance of the heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset's importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the asset's significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted. Where an application site includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

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184. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any element of the historic environment that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should use this assessment when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

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185. Where there is evidence of deliberate neglect of or damage to a heritage asset the deteriorated state of the heritage asset should not be taken into account in any decision.

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186. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the presumption in favour of sustainable development, the scale of any harm and the significance of the heritage asset,.

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187. There is an expectation that designated heritage assets should be conserved. Any loss should require clear and convincing justification. The more significant the designation, the greater the expectation should be. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II\* listed buildings and grade I and II\* registered parks and gardens, world heritage sites, should be wholly exceptional.

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188. Where the application will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset local planning authorities should refuse consent unless it can be demonstrated that:

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- no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term that will enable its conservation; and
- conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is not possible; or
- the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss.

189. Local planning authorities should not permit loss to whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.

190. Harm can be caused by development within the setting of a heritage

asset as well as by direct impact. Where harm is proposed to the setting of a designated heritage asset, particular justification will be required, including evidence that any significant harm is outweighed by the benefits of the development.

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I 191. Loss of a building that makes a positive contribution to a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should also be treated as substantial harm to

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a designated heritage asset.

192. Local planning authorities should look for opportunities to enhance or -- better reveal the significance of Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites. When considering applications for development that affect the setting of a heritage asset, local planning authorities should treat favourably applications that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset.

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193. Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

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194. Local planning authorities should assess whether the benefits of an - . application for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from the planning policy.

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### **Contribute to knowledge and understanding of the past**

**195. Local planning authorities should take opportunities to capture- evidence from heritage assets and use it to advance understanding, particularly where the asset is to be lost. They should require developers to record, analyse, publish and deposit information about the asset. The ability to record, however, should never be a feature in the decision on whether loss should be permitted.**

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## Glossary

**Affordable housing:** Affordable housing includes affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Affordable housing should meet the needs of eligible households, including availability at a cost low enough for them to afford, determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Provision should be made for future eligible households or, if these restrictions are lifted, for the initial capital subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing priorities. *[ON to confirm, and needs to cover Service Family Accommodation]*

**Aggregate Working Parties:** Established in the 1970s to identify and consider problems in the supply of aggregates. They provide technical advice in relation to the supply of, and demand for, aggregates (including for sand, gravel and crushed rock).

**Best and most versatile agricultural land:** Land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification.

**Climate change mitigation and adaptation:** Involves adjustments to natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.

**Coastal change:** Physical change to the shoreline i.e. erosion, coastal landslip, permanent inundation and coastal accretion.

**Coastal Change Management Area:** Areas likely to be affected by physical changes to the coast — local authorities should identify these areas.

**Conservation:** The process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and where appropriate enhances its significance.

**Conservation areas:** Areas of special architectural or historical interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Local planning authorities are required to designate areas that possess this special interest as conservation areas and to ensure that the character and appearance is protected.

**Designated heritage assets:** A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated as such under the relevant legislation.

**Edge of centre:** For retail purposes, a location that is well connected to and within easy walking distance (ie. up to 300 metres) of the primary shopping area. For all other main town centre uses, this is likely to be within 300 metres of a town centre boundary. In determining whether a site falls within the definition of edge-of-centre, account should be taken of local circumstances.

**Enabling development:** Development that would be unacceptable in planning terms but for the fact that it would bring heritage benefits, which would not otherwise be achieved, sufficient to justify it being carried out.

**Environmental and heritage assets:** A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. Heritage assets are the valued components of the historic environment. They include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process (including local listing).

**European wildlife site:** For advice on statutory obligations affecting biodiversity and geological conservation, see ODPM Circular 06/2005.

**Flood risk mitigation:** Managing and reducing the risk of flooding to communities and business.

**General Permitted Development Order:** A number of forms of telecommunications development which are permitted under the GPDO are subject to a 56 day prior approval

procedure. For such types of development the developer must apply to the local planning authority for its determination as to whether prior approval will be required as to the siting and appearance of the proposed development.

**Greenhouse gas emissions:** The release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases 'trap' energy radiated by the Earth within the atmosphere and include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases. Carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas from the UK.

**Heritage assets with archaeological interest:** An interest in carrying out an expert investigation at some point in the future into the evidence a heritage asset may hold of past human activity. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.

**Heritage Coast:** A strip of UK coastline designated as having notable natural beauty or scientific significance.

**Housing density:** Density is a measure of the number of dwellings which can be accommodated on a site or in an area.

**Housing market areas:** Geographical areas defined by household demand and preferences for housing. They reflect the key functional linkages between places where people live and work.

**Instrumentation operated in the national interest:** Includes meteorological and climate monitoring installations, satellite and radio communication, defence and national security sites and magnetic calibration facilities operated by or on behalf of the Government, delegated authorities or for defence purposes,

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**Integrated Coastal Zone Management:** A process for the management of the coast using an integrated approach, regarding all aspects of the coastal zone, including geographical and political boundaries, to achieve sustainability.

**International, national and local sites of importance for biodiversity:** All SSSIs, SACs, candidate SACs, Sites of Community Importance (SCI), SPAs, potential SPAs and Ramsar sites, Local Sites, natural habitats identified in the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 section 41 list*, section 74 list, and areas identified for habitat restoration and creation.

**Market housing:** Private housing for rent or for sale, where the price is set in the open market.

**Natural and historic environment:** All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora. Those elements of the historic environment that hold significance are called heritage assets.

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**Out of centre:** A location which is not in or on the edge of a centre but not necessarily outside the urban area.

**Previously developed land:** Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This includes defence buildings, but excludes:

- Land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings.
- Land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures.

## Restricted - Policy

— Land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments, which, although it may feature paths, pavilions and other buildings, has not been previously developed.

— Land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time (to the extent that it can reasonably be considered as part of the natural surroundings).

Primary and secondary frontages: Primary frontages are likely to include a high proportion of retail uses. Secondary frontages provide greater opportunities for a diversity of uses.

Primary shopping area: Defined area where retail development is concentrated (generally comprising the primary and those secondary frontages which are contiguous and closely related to the primary shopping frontage).

Priority habitats and species: Section 41 of the England Biodiversity List provides details of all Species and Habitats of Principal Importance.

Ramsar sites: Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance, designated under the Ramsar Convention.

Renewable and low-carbon energy: Includes energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity. Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment — from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass. Low-carbon technologies are those that can help reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels).

Setting of a heritage asset: The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

Significance of heritage assets: The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic.

Special Areas of Conservation: SACs are areas which have been given special protection under the European Union's Habitat's Directive. They provide increased protection to a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats and are a vital part of global efforts to conserve the world's biodiversity.

Special Protection Areas: SPAs are areas which have been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within European Union countries. They are European designated sites, classified under the 'Birds Directive 1979' which provides enhanced protection given by the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status all SPAs also hold.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA): The primary role of this assessment is to identify sites with potential for housing; assess their housing potential; and assess when they are likely to be developed.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA): A key part of the evidence base required to ensure the delivery of housing that meets the needs of communities now and in years to come.

Sustainable drainage systems (SUDs): SUDs cover the whole range of sustainable approaches to surface drainage management including: source control measures including rainwater recycling and drainage; infiltration devices to allow water to soak into the ground, that can include individual soakaways and communal facilities; filter strips and swales, which are vegetated features that hold and drain water downhill mimicking natural drainage patterns; filter drains and porous pavements to allow rainwater and run-off to infiltrate into permeable material below ground and provide storage if needed; and basins and ponds to hold excess water after rain and allow controlled discharge that avoids flooding.

## Restricted - Policy

Sustainable transport including walking and cycling, green or low emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport.

**Town centre:** Defined area, including the primary shopping centre area and areas of predominantly leisure, business and other main town centre uses within or adjacent to the primary shopping area. The extent of the town centre should be defined on the proposals map.

**Veteran tree:** A tree which, because of its great age, size or condition is of exceptional value culturally, in the landscape or for wildlife.

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