

Planning for a Sustainable Future – White Paper 2007

Key Proposals:

- 1. To provide a positive framework for delivering sustainable development, supports local government in this place shaping role and improving speed efficiency and customer focus within the planning system.**
- 2. A positive framework for delivering sustainable development.**
 - Expect development plans to be tested on their carbon ambition (urban growth securing sustainable travel, reduction in carbon emissions for new development via buildings and transport activities).
 - Intend to legislate to set out clearly the role of the planning authorities in tackling energy efficiency and climate change.
 - Regional Planning bodies to set targets in the RSS for renewable energy capacity in line with national targets.
 - Permitting a range of types of householder micro generation without the need to apply for planning permission (conditions and limitations would apply).
 - Extending permitted development rights on micro generation to other types of land use including commercial and agricultural development.
 - Taking forward a public debate to development long term vision for land use and land management, in order to inform the planning policies and decision made by regions and local authorities and wider government policy.
 - Measures announced in the budget will help increase the supply of commercial property and brownfield land. These measures include the modernisation of empty property relief from April 2008, and business premises renovation allowance.
 - Closer alignment of Regional Economic Strategies and Regional Spatial Strategies is being looked at, at the Regional level. This review is to focus on the sub regional and city region level to reflect the importance of policies that are specific to particular parts of the region.
 - Amendment of the statement of general principles – The planning system – General principles to be consistent with PPS1, summer 2007.
 - Propose a new Planning Policy Statement on Planning for Economic Development which will reinforce the Government commitment to a strong and stable economy, draft on 2007 and final version by spring 2008.
 - Local Authorities need to indicate in their LDF Core Strategy the circumstances in which they would accept development not envisaged when the plan was approved.
 - Intend to review the current approach to PPS6 to assessing the proposals outside town centres. The need and impact test will be replaced with a new policy which promotes competition and improves consumer choice. Consultation on proposals will be in 2007 and finalise changes in spring 2007.
- 3. Strengthening the role of local authorities in place shaping.**
 - Aligning the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework Core Strategy for the entire Local Authority. A combined approach.
 - Remove the requirement for a separate examination of Planning Statements if Community Involvement.
 - Changes in the process of the production and examination in Development Plan Documents. Current system takes in total 36 months from issues and options to final adoption. Proposal's for complex plans to take 28 months in total from issues and options to final adoption and simples plans 12-13 months from issues and options to final adoption.

- Revisions for DPD's during the process as it is considered inflexible, currently once a plan has been submitted it cannot be changed. There fore in autumn consultation will proceed stating that the local authority carries out the final statutory consultation on the plan before submitting for examination and in exceptional circumstances makes changes after the consultation id required.
- Site allocations may not always be needed and core strategies to include strategic sites (consultation in august).
- Proposals to seek legislation to remove the requirement that all SPD's must be listed in the LDS which would mean that local planning authorities can produce them without reference to central government.
- Propose to seek legislation to remove the requirement for a sustainability appraisal for every SPD (conditions apply).
- Where as SA is completed, the likely impacts on climate change will need to be a priority.
- More money is stated in the white paper (07/08 - £110 million) to be paid to local planning authorities for the delivery of development and control targets, production of LDD's and provision of planning services.
- More devolution to local authorities.
- Introduction of planning performance agreements (PPA's) – up front agreements between developer and planning authority that sets out all the information required and the timetable for delivering the decision (pilot programme run in 2006).
- Changes in the approach to planning fees – additional document Planning fees in England; proposals for change. – suggest that remove the fee cap of £50,000 though householder fees will be kept in line with inflation.
- Introduction of additional fees (of £85 of £25) for local authorities of sort out conditions of a planning applications, though time conditions would apply for this.
- Consultation of de-regulating planning fees in the longer term so local authorities can set their own fees.
- Streamline formal intervention when local authorities fail to met their targets.