

GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OVERVIEW SCRUTINY PANEL

Briefing Note: Update on Government Policy Changes

June 2011

Ministerial Views on new approaches to planning:

Local Government Ministers today called on a new generation of councillors to shake up their town halls in the interests of the people they serve and help banish the 'computer says no' culture that exists in some councils.

Government is slashing red tape and putting councillors and communities in control of their local areas. But the Ministers argued they want to go further and faster which is why they today met a group of current and former young and high flying councillors to hear their new and fresh perspective on their role in local government, and how they have shaken things up in their boroughs and made a difference in their community.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1927939>

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/newsettlement>

Ministerial Views on Localism:

There's nothing milk and honey about localism. There's nothing easy about it - there's no guidance manual. That isn't really the point. Localism won't deliver homogenous, bland, uniform public services. This is about pushing power outwards, downwards as far as possible. And all the possibilities that arise from local communities seizing power themselves. And taking on the responsibilities and the consequences of getting things right and getting them wrong. So localism is red in tooth and claw.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/localism>

Relaxation of Changes of Use from employment to residential:

This consultation seeks views on the Government's proposals to amend the *Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995* (as amended) to grant permitted development rights to changes of use from commercial to residential, i.e. to allow such changes of use without the need for planning applications.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/relaxationchangeconsultation>

Planning and Design in light of budget changes affecting CABE:

Letter to local authorities bringing them up to date on changes that have occurred to the Government's approach on design and planning.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/letterdesignplanning>

Gypsy and Traveller Site Consultation on New Government Policy:

This consultation seeks views on a new draft Planning Policy Statement for traveller sites. The final Statement will replace current policy set out in *Circular 01/06 (ODPM): Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites* and *Circular 04/07: Planning for Travelling Showpeople*.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/travellersitesconsultation>

Response to Consultation and New PPS 3 Policy on Affordable Housing:

Summary of Government responses to the consultation on the *Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing* (PPS3) definition of affordable housing.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps3annexsummary>

Presumption in favour of sustainable development

A major change to planning policy that will get development back on track and ensure protection for the environment has been published today by Planning Minister Greg Clark.

The new 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' that will get development underway whilst keeping vital environmental protections is to become the cornerstone of a more streamlined planning system that will cut reams of unwieldy planning policy down to a tightly focused National Planning Policy Framework.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1923165>

This statement indicates an approach that the Government could take to introducing a presumption in favour of sustainable development in the forthcoming National Planning Policy Framework. It fulfils our commitment in the [Plan for Growth](#) (external link), published on 23 March 2011, and will help to inform discussion about the way it would operate.

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.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/presumptionfavour/>