

GROWTH & PROSPERITY OVERVIEW SCRUTINY PANEL

Briefing Note: Government Policy Changes

September 2011

I. Local Planning Regulations Consultation

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/localplansconsultation.pdf>

- The draft Regulations set out the process and procedures we will be required to follow to produce Development Plans in the future and particularly once the Localism Bill has been enacted.
- In essence, the draft Regulations simply update the existing Local Development Framework regulations we have used to successfully produce our LDF documents (the Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004 as updated).
- The draft Regulations make generally minor changes to the current LDF regulations. The stages a development plan document must pass through are unchanged, and the scope and content of the LDF and particularly development plan documents and supplementary planning documents stay the same.
- Minor changes to the regulations are proposed, which essentially attempt to give some more discretion to local authorities in terms of the process to be used, remove references to Regional Strategies (which the Localism Bill proposes to abolish), and makes some amendments to the way in which Inspector's reports should be treated following Examinations.

In Officers' opinion, none of these changes should pose us any concerns. It is not therefore proposed to respond to this consultation.