

**Climate Change and
Natural Environment
PPSs
Published for
Consultation**

DLP BRIEFING NOTE 17

Prepared by
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Consultation Papers published on new Planning Policy Statements dealing with the Natural Environment and Climate Change

Two consultation Planning Policy Statements have recently been published by the DCLG, entitled:

“Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment”, and

“Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate”

The papers were published on 9th March 2010, for a 12 week consultation period which expires on 1st June 2010.

Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment

The draft Planning Policy Statement (*PPS*), as the name implies, relates to planning for the natural environment including green infrastructure, open space, sport, recreation and play, and also moves the matter into the context of the government’s agenda for encouraging healthier living and environments.

In its final form, the *PPS* will supersede *PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*; *PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation*; *PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas* (paragraphs 21-23, 28-29, and 33); and *PPG20: Coastal Planning* (paragraphs 2.9, 2.10 and 3.9).

The draft *PPS* sets out the Government’s national planning policies for the natural environment, which will be material considerations in planning decisions, and will be taken into account when formulating development plans.

The plan making policies within the draft *PPS* highlight the importance of regional and local planning authorities having up-to-date and robust evidence bases in order to understand the characteristics of the natural environment in their area. These also set out both the regional and local approach to planning for the natural environment, and more targeted policies dealing with the local approach to green infrastructure; open space, sport, recreation and play; recreational rights of way; and the undeveloped coast and coastal access.

The development management policies set out policy principles relating to:

- **Guiding the determination of applications in relation to the natural environment;**
- **the maintenance of an adequate supply of open space, green infrastructure, sports, recreational and play facilities;**
- **guiding the determination of applications affecting playing fields;**
- **consideration of applications for floodlighting for sports and recreational facilities;**
- **dealing with applications for sports and recreation requiring natural features or within nationally designated areas; and**
- **guiding proposals for major sports development and mixed use sport and recreational facilities.**

As the policies in this draft *PPS* would be material considerations which must be taken into account in development management decisions, the development management policies can be applied directly by the decision-maker when determining whether development should proceed.

A practice guide will be developed to accompany this *PPS* following a review of the existing companion guides for *PPS9* and *PPG17* and this will reflect the outcomes of this consultation process.

Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate

This draft *PPS* on the low carbon environment and climate change supplements the advice in *PPS 1* and concentrates on securing sustainable progress towards the UK's targets for cutting greenhouse emissions and the use of more renewable and low carbon energy, and to plan for the climate change.

In its final form, the new *PPS*, in addition to supplementing *PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development*, will bring together and replace the existing *Planning and Climate Change supplement to PPS1* and *PPS22: Renewable Energy*.

The draft *PPS* sets out the Government's national planning policies for dealing with climate change, which will be material considerations and which will be taken into account when formulating development plans and making development decisions.

The plan making policies within the draft *PPS* highlight the importance of regional and local planning authorities having up-to-date and robust evidence bases in order to identify options for regional and local plans which best reflect the objectives and policies in the *PPS*. Local authorities are instructed to assess their individual areas for opportunities for **decentralised energy**. They set out both the regional and local approach to planning for a low carbon future, and more targeted policies are set out dealing with the local planning approach to:

- **Renewable and low-carbon energy and associated infrastructure;**
- **adapting to climate change;**
- **selecting new sites for new development;**
- **setting requirements for using decentralized energy in new development;**
- **setting authority-wide targets for using decentralized energy in new development;**
- **setting requirements for sustainable buildings; and**
- **electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.**

The development management policies provide guidance on:

- **The general approach local planning authorities should take to planning applications, and sets out the information which should be requested from applicants.**
- **how development should be designed to ensure that climate change objectives are achieved.**
- **renewable and low carbon energy generation and how LPAs should determine planning applications for such developments.**
- **how LPAs should consider the impact of proposals on the safeguarding of renewable and low carbon energy supplies and states that where a proposed development would prejudice renewable or low carbon energy supply, these should be refused.**

As the policies in this draft *PPS* would be material considerations which must be taken into account in development management decisions, the development management policies can be applied directly by the decision-maker when determining whether development should proceed.

A practice guide will be developed to accompany this *PPS* following a review of the existing companion guide for *PPS22* and the online practice guide for the climate change *PPS*, and this will reflect the outcomes of this consultation process.

If you have any questions about these new draft *PPSs*, and the implications they may have on your future developments, or you would like to discuss the possibility of DLP Planning making a representation on either of these documents on your behalf, please do not hesitate to contact us

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