



#### **Local Council planning refresher 2023**

National, Local and Neighbourhood Planning Policy

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## An Introduction to Planning Policy – National Picture

#### Agenda for this session:

- National Planning Policy Context
- What is the Development Plan, and the Local Plan process?
- Changes to the Planning System
- Targets and Tests to be aware of...

#### Planning in England is 'Plan-led'

- National Planning Policy
  - National Planning Policy Framework
  - National policy statements and guidance
  - Gypsy and Traveller Policy
- Local Development Plan
  - Cornwall Local Plan and Site Allocatio
  - Climate Emergency DPD
  - Minerals Plan
  - Community Infrastructure Levy
- Neighbourhood Plans





#### **National Policy**

- Government policy direction as announced, set out in Ministerial Notes, etc.
- Planning Legislation and Regulation
- National Planning Policy Framework
- National Planning Practice Guidance
- Case Law/Appeal Decisions
- Non- Planning Legislation
- Other Guidance



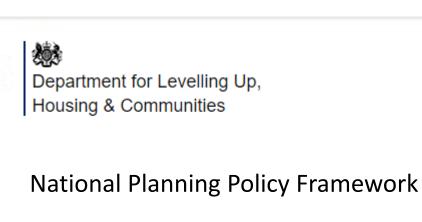
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

#### **National Planning Policy Framework**

Provides high level national guidance on all aspects of planning process and policy:

- Presumption in Favour of sustainable development ...
- Sets out the process for producing a Local Plan and requirements under key policy areas such as housing, employment, environment.
- Includes 5 Year Land Supply, Housing Delivery Test and housing need
- Requires Local Authorities to 'significantly boost the supply of land for housing.

Will be updated following a recent consultation on changes





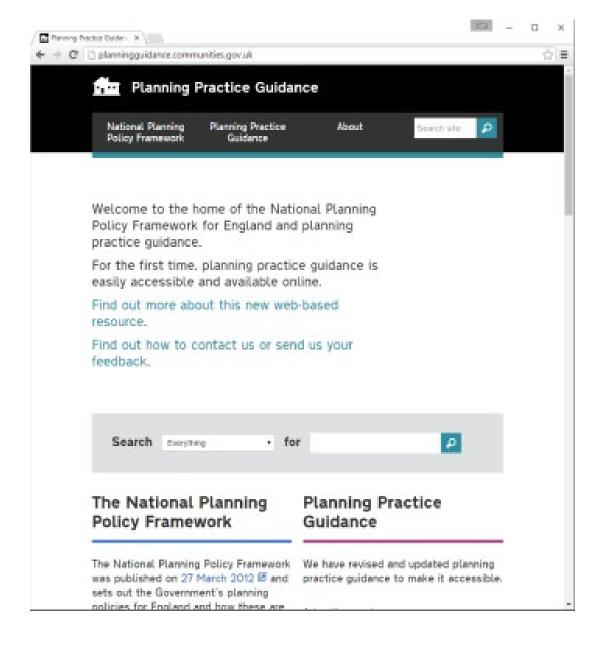


#### **National Planning Practice Guidance**

An online resource, setting out great detail information on how to apply NPPF guidance to plan making and decision making

Includes matters such as the standard methodology for the calculation of local housing need, and the process for creating Local Plans

Large resource which is referred to by Inspectors, and which can be updated at very short notice!





#### What is the Development Plan?

"The development plan is at the heart of the planning system with a requirement set in law that planning decisions must be taken in line with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Plans set out a vision and a framework for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure – as well as a basis for conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and achieving well designed places. It is essential that plans are in place and kept up to date."

National Planning Practice Guidance – Gov.uk



# How do we Produce a Local Plan (current system)?

The process for producing a Local Plan is tightly controlled by legislation and statutory regulations. Every Local Plan has to pass through these stages in order to meet the statutory requirements.

Following this process is the only way to change policies in the development plan.

www.cornwall.gov.uk

- Initial evidence
   gathering and
   consultation
- · Formulate initial aims and objectives
- Begin evidence gathering
- Notify relevant consultation bodies and those carrying on business in the area and invite them to make representations
- 2. Publication

 Local Plan is formally published for a minimum of six weeks for representations to be made

3. Submission

 Local Plan, representations and other required documents are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Inspectorate arrange for the Local Plan to be scrutinised through an examination by an independent inspector.

4. Found sound

 Inspector writes a report setting out whether the Local Plan is sound and satisfies legal requirements.
 If the Local Plan is not sound, the local planning authority can ask the inspector to recommend modifications to make it sound.

5. Adoption

 If the inspector recommends that the Local Plan may be adopted, the local planning authority may formally adopt it (usually by a vote in full Council).
 Once adopted, it is part of the development plan for the local area.

#### Change is Coming....A New Planning System

- "Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill" published in May 2022, setting out changes to the planning system, including significant changes to planning policy, the form of Local Plans, and the process for creating them:
- Slimmer, digital plans with fewer local policies
- National planning policies (prospectus published December 2022).
- 30 month preparation period (including Examination)
- Supported by a new Infrastructure Levy
- New system likely to be in place by November 2024 but preparation work needed sooner

#### Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill - main elements

- Strengthens the plan-led system
- EIA and SEA replaced by 'Environmental Outcomes Reports'
- Each Authority must have a Design Code
- S.106 and CIL replaced by new 'Infrastructure Fund'
- Enforcement powers reinforced and increased planning fees
- Each Authority must have an Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Neighbourhood Plans retained and new Neighbourhood Priorities Statements introduced





#### **Recent LURB consultations**

- Technical consultations on the detail of the Infrastructure Levy and changes to compulsory purchase compensation.
- A consultation on the new system of Environmental Outcomes Reports
- Proposals for changes to planning fees
- A 'prospectus' for the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and National Development Management Policy – a further formal consultation on policies will follow soon)
- Short-term lettings use class proposals



#### **Targets and Tests**

5 Year Land Supply: Planning Commitments vs Local Plan Target (introduced in first NPPF)

The Housing Delivery Test (introduced by government in 2018)

Housing Trajectory: The Forward Plan of sites expected to come forward throughout the Local Plan period.

Local Plan Objectively Assessed Need: 2,625 dpa (homes to be built every year between 2010 and 2030)

Local Housing Need using the Government's Standard Methodology: 2,820 dpa



#### **Targets and Tests**

Conclusion of all of these tests: Cornwall is on track to deliver against the Government's key tests, so we can apply our Local Plan policies to development proposals with full weight.





# An Introduction to Planning Policy – Local Planning **Policy**

#### Agenda for this session:

- The Development Plan in Cornwall
  - The Cornwall Local Plan
  - The Climate Emergency DPD
  - The Site Allocations DPD
  - Neighbourhood Development Plans in Cornwall
  - Minerals Safeguarding DPD
  - Guidance SPDs, CPOANs and CIL
- The Local Plan Review



#### The Development Plan in Cornwall

The Development Plan in Cornwall is split into several parts:

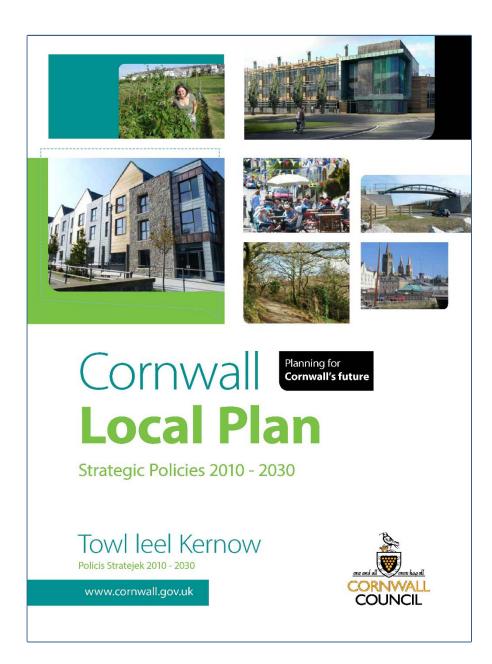
- The Cornwall Local Plan Strategic Policies (adopted November 2016)
  - Sets out the high level policies and strategy guiding development in Cornwall

     including the requirements for new homes, employment, infrastructure
     and protection of the environment. Covers up to 2030.
- The Climate Emergency Development Plan Document
  - Sets out additional policies to the Local plan to help address climate change, including energy efficiency standards and renewables
- The Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) (adopted 2019)
  - Sets out detailed strategies and sites for development (Site allocations)
- Minerals Safeguarding DPD adopted 2018.
  - Protects land needed for mineral extraction from inappropriate development
- Neighbourhood Plans.
  - www.cornwall.gov.uk

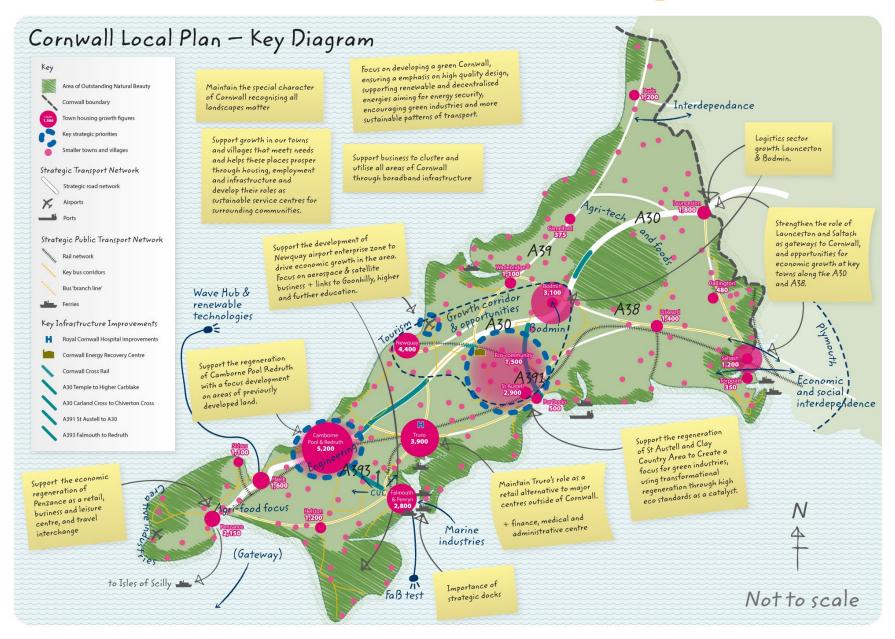
#### The Cornwall Local Plan – Strategic Policies

The Cornwall Local Plan contains the high level strategy for development in Cornwall – including targets, broad strategy for where development should take place, as well as more general policies covering:

- Business and Tourism
- Housing, inc affordable housing and housing mix
- Design
- Low carbon and renewable energy
- Environment, green infrastructure
- Minerals, waste and development standards



#### The Cornwall Local Plan – Strategic Policies

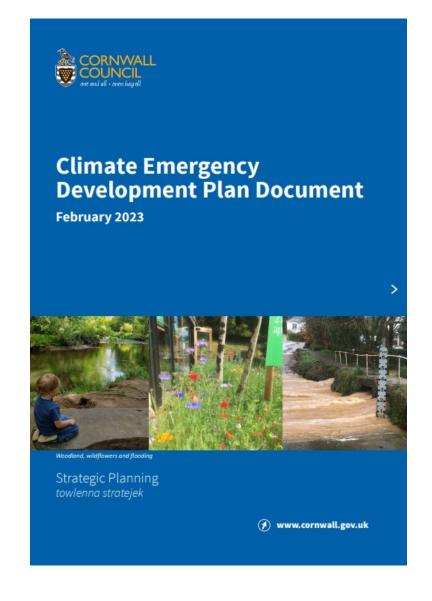




#### **Climate Emergency Development Plan Document**

The DPD is a part of the Council's Climate Change Actions. It contains policies that expand the Local Plan policies, as well as introducing new policies, including energy efficiency, biodiversity net gain, low impact living and areas suitable for renewables.

The DPD was adopted on 21<sup>st</sup>
February 2023 and is accompanied by dedicated guidance to help decision makers.





#### Site Allocations Development Plan Document



www.cornwall.gov.uk

Site Allocations are policies setting out sites for development – including housing, employment, infrastructure and community facilities.

The DPD sets out these allocations within a wider strategy for Cornwall's towns – unless the town chose to identify their own strategy in a Neighbourhood Plan

# Minerals Safeguarding Development Plan Document

Sets out locations safeguarded for minerals extraction, and other policies used to determine applications for minerals extraction.



#### Minerals Safeguarding Development Plan Document

December 2018

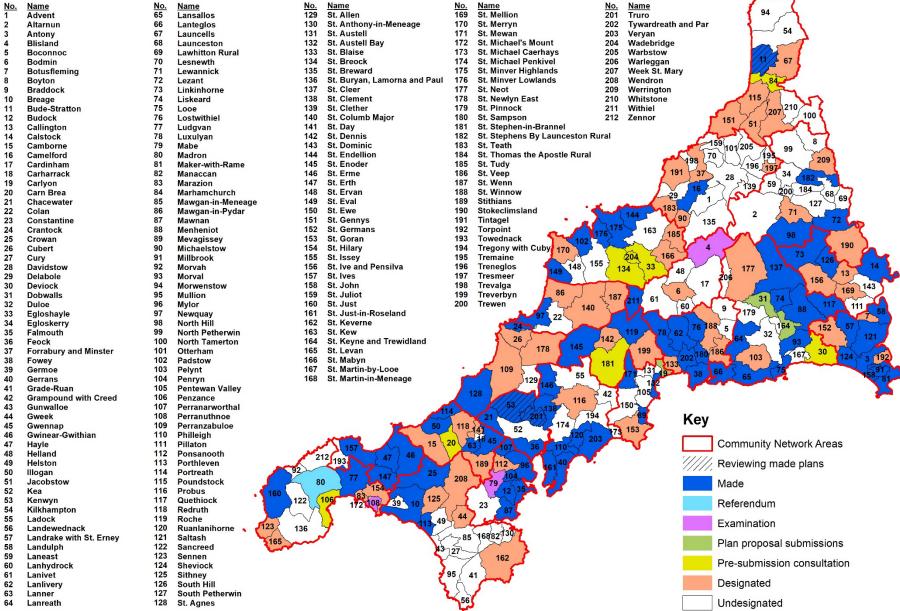


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#### Neighbourhood Development Plans





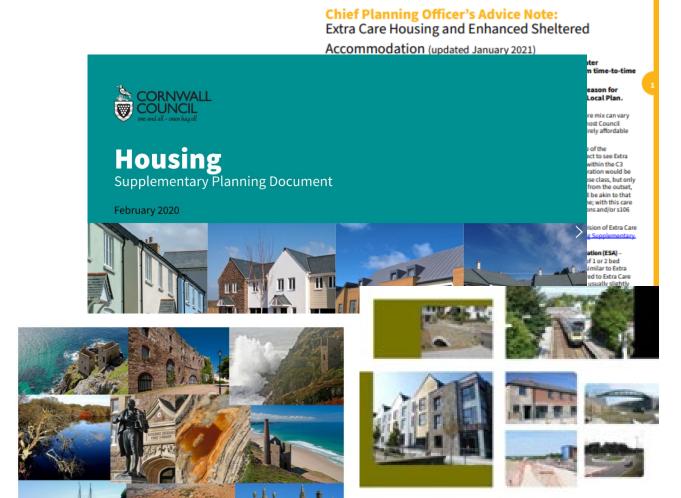
#### Guidance

Supplementary Planning Documents

Chief Planning Officer Advice Notes

**Development Briefs** 

Community
Infrastructure Levy



Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site

Supplementary Planning Document
May 2017



Infrastructure Levy

Draft Charging Schedule CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

June 2017





#### **Local Plan Review**

#### "Review of local development documents

**10A.**—(1) A local planning authority must review a local development document within the following time periods—

(a)in respect of a local plan, the review must be completed every five years, starting from the date of adoption of the local plan, in accordance with section 23 of the Act (adoption of local development documents);

(b)in respect of a statement of community involvement, the review must be completed every five years, starting from the date of adoption of the statement of community involvement, in accordance with section 23 of the Act.".

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017





#### **Local Plan Review**

- Our Cornwall Local Plan was adopted in November 2016 more than 5 years ago.
- Government regulations say that we must have reviewed the Local Plan within 5 years of its adoption date, and if that review finds that the Local Plan is out of date in any way, we must update the plan by taking it through a new plan process.
- We have concluded that a review is not needed and confirmed at Cabinet in November 2021. The LP policies will continue to be applied with full weight for another 5 years – meaning that we will not need to look again at housing need and requirements.



#### **Local Plan Review**

- Changes to the planning system mean that we won't have time to develop a new plan under the old system
- Early work to understand Cornwall's challenges and broad opportunities will be taking place over 2023 and 2024 in readiness for a new system
- A new local plan will be formally started soon after November 2024 (once we are allowed to start)
- Early work will engage with councillors, communities and stakeholders to consider issues and opportunities based around providing affordable homes, tackling the climate and ecological emergencies, recovering from the pandemic and helping people meet their own needs where they live.





### Thank you / Meur ras

If you have any questions or comments positiveplanning@cornwall.gov.uk