

# NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK IS PUBLISHED

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Following the Government's recent Budget announcement, the NPPF came into force on 27 March 2012.

The NPPF:-

1. Consolidates over 1000 pages of planning guidance into a single, 59 page document.
2. Sets out the Government's Planning Policies for England and how they are expected to be applied.
3. Must be taken into account in the preparation of Local and Neighbourhood Plans.
4. Is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. The Policy Framework states that international and national bodies have set out broad principles of sustainable development including:-

1. Resolution 24/187 of the United Nations General Assembly which defines sustainable development as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".
2. The UK Sustainable Development Strategy Securing the Future which sets out five guiding principles of sustainable development, also published on 27 March, by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and is available on their website – click [here](#).

Alongside the NPPF, the Department for Communities and Local Government has published:-

1. Technical guidance to the National Planning Policy Framework. This document provides additional guidance to Local Planning Authorities to ensure the effective implementation of the Planning Policy set out in the NPPF on development in areas at risk of flooding and in relation to mineral extraction.
2. Planning policy for traveller sites. This document sets out the new planning policies for traveller sites and should be read in conjunction with the NPPF.

The above is a brief synopsis of what the new National Planning Policy Framework is covering. Already there have been comments by Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth but the modifications to the draft National Planning Policy Framework now embodied in the published document have been broadly welcomed and criticised in equal measure.



As always it will be interesting to see how the document is interpreted by both Local Planning Authorities, in regard to determining planning applications, and Planning Inspectors in determining appeals.

**To discuss this matter in more detail please contact Paul Leach either by telephone on 01306 502313 or by email: [p.leach@downslaw.co.uk](mailto:p.leach@downslaw.co.uk)**

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