

Planning Reform

The Green Paper

NEWSLETTER
January 2002

<p>Highlights:</p> <p>Emphasis on delivery and action</p> <p>Development Plans to be replaced</p> <p>Master plans to replace outline applications</p> <p>Changes to time limits to implement planning permissions and submitting appeals</p> <p>Planning Agreements to be reviewed</p> <p>Council to charge for meetings and increase application fees</p> <p>Review of Use Classes Order - major changes to Retail Use Class</p> <p>Review of PPGs, including PPG6 and PPG4 - Small Firms</p>	<h3>Less Planning - More Development</h3> <p>The Green Paper was published on 17th December 2001 - with little publicity, despite it having been heralded for some time by the government, the press and interested parties.</p> <p>The proposed reforms deserve the tag "fundamental" because of the emphasis to streamline the development plan framework. In essence, the government is creating a national system of UDPs - by proposing to abolish structure plans altogether, and replace local plans with Local Development Frameworks (LDF).</p> <p>The Green Paper needs to be read in conjunction with associated documents, -known as "Daughter Documents" - that propose reforms to the Compulsory Purchase system, the procedure for national projects and s106 Agreements.</p> <p>Together, the reforms appear to be a genuine attempt to refocus planning from policy to action.</p>	<h3>Development Plans - A New Framework</h3> <p>The government proposes to abolish Structure, Local and Unitary Development Plans and replace them with a Local Development Framework (LDF). Planning Authorities will retain responsibility for promoting policies, and will be required to publish LDF's, that will be a land-use statement for community wide policies set out in the Council's Community Strategy. In the jargon of the day, LDF's will be spatial strategies.</p> <p>They will comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Statement of Core Policies Detailed Action Plans Maps <p>The Government - rightly - wants to speed up the review process. The Statement of Core Policies will be reviewed every 3 years, although council's will be required to publish them every year on their web sites. Council's will be forced to make use of modern technology - and the Government sees the internet as a means of delivering information quickly and cheaply.</p>
---	---	--