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Local Plan NPPF (July 2021) Check list

1. Introduction

1.1 This check list has been compiled by identifying in the NPPF (July 2021) where it advises that planning authorities 'should' include a topic/issue/policy etc and has been turned into a question. The headings are those used by the NPPF. The sections set out below are a summary of the content/purpose of the text of the NPPF. The NPPF should be read in full when undertaking a detailed health check of a development plan document.

Sustainable Development (para 11)

Does the plan promote a sustainable pattern of development

Plan Making (para 16)

Has the plan been:

prepared with the objective of achieving sustainable development

prepared positively in a way that is aspirational but deliverable

shaped by early proportionate and effective engagement....

made accessible to assist involvement....

written to serve a clear purpose

Strategic Policies (paras 20-23)

Does the plan set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development and make sufficient provision for housing employment etc



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Does the Plan make it explicit which policies are strategic policies

Does the Plan have a minimum of 15 years from date of adoption

Are the locations of development and land use designation of the plan identified on a key diagram and policies map

Does the plan deliver sufficient land and at a sufficient rate to address the OAN over the plan period

Effective Cooperation (paras 24-27)

Has a statement of common ground been prepared and maintained through-out the plan making process

Preparing and reviewing plans (paras 31-33)

Is the plan underpinned by relevant and up to date evidence

Has the plan been informed by a sustainability appraisal at each stage

Development Contributions (para 34)

Does the plan set out the contributions expected from development

Is the plan deliverable

Examining Plans (paras 35-37)

Has the plan been positively prepared

Is the content of the plan justified

Is the plan deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working

Is the plan consistent with national policy



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Delivering a supply of homes (paras 60-73)

Have the strategic policies setting a housing requirement been informed by a local housing needs assessment (61)

Have the housing needs of the community been reflected in the plan (62)

Does the plan specify the type of affordable housing required (62)

Does the plan set out the housing requirement for designated neighbourhood areas (66)

Has the plan been informed by a strategic housing land availability assessment (68)

Does the plan provide identify a sufficient supply and mix of sites including availability, suitability and viability (68)

Does the plan identify a supply of deliverable sites years 1-5 and deliverable sites years 6-10 and 11-15 (68)

Does the plan identify at least 10% of housing requirement on sites of less than 1ha (69)

Does the plan support windfall sites (69)

Does the plan support entry level exception sites (72)

Maintaining Supply and Delivery (paras 74-77)

Does the plan include a housing trajectory (74)

Does the plan include a policy to enable the use of time limited conditions (77)

Rural Housing (paras 78-79)

Does the plan support housing developments that reflect local needs (78)

Does the plan identify opportunities for villages to grow (78)

Does the plan control isolated housing development in the countryside(79)



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Building a Strong Competitive Economy (paras 81-83)

Does the plan proactively encourage sustainable economic growth (82)

Does the plan set criteria/identify sites to meet the anticipated needs over the plan period (82)

Does the plan provide flexibility in response to new working practices (82)

Does the plan recognise and address the specific requirements of different sectors (83)

Supporting a Prosperous Rural Economy (paras 84-85)

Does the plan enable sustainable growth; of all types of businesses, the development and diversification of agriculture, sustainable rural tourism and retention and development of services and facilities (84)

Does the plan recognise that development may have to be found beyond existing settlement boundaries(85)

Ensuring the Vitality of Town Centres (paras 86-91)

Does the plan support the role of town centres (86)

Does the plan define a hierarchy,

Does the plan provide flexibility

Does the plan define town centres

Does the plan retain existing markets

Does the plan allocate sites to meet the needs for retail, leisure, offices

Does the plan apply the sequential test (86)



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Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities (paras 92-97)

Does the plan aim to achieve healthy and inclusive and safe places (92)

Does the plan promote social interaction, safe and accessible places, enable and support healthy lifestyles(92)

Does the plan plan positively for the provision of shared spaces, community facilities and other local services(93)

Does the plan take into account and support the delivery of local health, social and cultural strategies(93)

Does the plan guard against the unnecessary loss of facilities and services (93)

Does the plan ensure established shops, facilities and services able to develop and modernise (93)

Does the plan provide an integrated approach to considering the location of development (93)

Does the plan consider the merits of estate regeneration (94)

Does the plan promote public safety in respect of malicious threats and natural hazards (97)

Does the plan support development required for operational defence and security purposes (97)

Open Space and Recreation (paras 98-103)

Is the plan based on up to date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (98)

Does the plan protect and enhance public rights of way and access (100)

Does the plan designate land as Local Green Space (101)



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Promoting Sustainable Transport (paras 104-109)

Has the plan considered transport issues from the earliest stage of preparation (104)

Does the plan support an appropriate mix of uses across an area (106)

Has the plan been prepared with the active involvement of the local highway authority and others (106)

Does the plan identify and protect sites and routes critical in developing infrastructure (106)

Does the plan provide for high quality walking and cycling networks (106)

Does the plan provide for large scale transport facilities (106)

Does the plan recognise the importance of aviation (106)

Does the plan set parking standards (107)

Does the plan make provision for lorry parking (109)

Does the plan require travel plans (113)

Supporting High Quality Communications (paras 112-116)

Does the plan support the expansion of electronic communications(114)

Making Effective use of Land (paras 117-121)

Does the plan promote the effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses (119)

Does the plan set out strategic policies for accommodating OAN that makes as much use of previously developed land(119)

Does the plan encourage multiple benefits from urban and rural land(120)

Does the plan take opportunities to achieve net environmental gains(120)

Does the plan recognise undeveloped land can perform many functions (120)



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Does the plan give substantial weight to using brownfield land within settlements (120)

Does the plan support the development of under used buildings(120)

Does the plan support opportunities to use the airspace above existing buildings(120)

Is the plan informed by regular reviews of the demand for land(122)

Does the plan re-allocate land for a more deliverable use(122)

Achieving Appropriate Densities (paras 122-123)

Does the plan support the efficient use of land(124)

Does the plan avoid low density development (125)

Does the plan optimise the use of land and meet as much of the identified need as possible(125)

Does the plan use minimum density standards (125)

Achieving Well-Designed Places (paras 124-132)

Does the plan set out a clear design vision and what is likely to be acceptable(127)

Have design polices been developed with local communities (127)

Does the plan ensure that developments will function well, are visually attractive, sympathetic in character, establish a strong sense of place, optimise use of a site for an appropriate mix of development, create places that are safe(130)

Protecting the Green Belt (paras 137-146)

Does the plan set out proposals for a new green belt(139)



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Meeting the challenge of climate change (para 152)

Does the plan support the transition to a low carbon future(152)

Planning for Climate Change(paras 153-158)

Does the plan take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change(153)

Does the plan support measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and/or make provision for the possible relocation of vulnerable development (153)

Does the plan provide a strategy for the use of non-fossil fuel energy, consider areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources and identify opportunities for decentralised, renewable, low carbon systems(155)

Does the plan support community-led energy initiatives(156)

Planning and Flood Risk (paras 159-163)

Has the plan been informed by SFRA (160)

Does the plan apply a sequential risk based approach (160)

Does the plan safeguard land from development that is/may be required for flood management, support opportunities to reduce cause and impact of flooding, seek opportunities to relocate development(160)

Coastal Change (paras 169-172)

Does the plan in coastal areas take account of Marine Policy Statements(169)

Does the plan reduce the risk from coastal change (170)

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (paras 174-178)

Does the plan contribute and enhance the natural environment by: (174)



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protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity/geological value and soils;

recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, including best and most versatile agricultural land trees and woodland;

maintaining the character of the coast;

minimising impacts and providing net gains for biodiversity including establishing ecological networks;

preventing new and existing development from contributing to unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or put at unacceptable risk from;

does the plan distinguish between the hierarchy of sites(175)

does the plan take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment/landscape level (175)

does the plan include planning policies for designated Heritage coasts which reflect its special character (178)

Habitats and Biodiversity (paras 179-182)

Does the plan identify map and safeguard components of local wildlife rich habitats and wider ecological network (179)

Does the plan promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity(179)

Ground Conditions and Pollution (183-187)

Does the plan ensure that a site is suitable for its proposed use (183)

Does the plan ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the cumulative effects of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment (185)



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Does the plan mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development (185)

Does the plan identify and protect tranquil areas (185)

Does the plan limit the impact of light pollution on local amenity, dark landscapes and nature conservation (185)

Does the plan sustain and contribute towards compliance with national standards and take account of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones (185)

Does the plan ensure that new development can be integrated effectively with existing business and community facilities (186)

Does the plan focus on the whether a proposal is an acceptable use of land (187)

Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (paras 189-193)

Does the plan set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment , does the strategy meet the criteria a)-d) (190)

Facilitating the Sustainable use of Minerals (paras 209-210)

Does the plan include policies which are consistent with criteria a)-h) (210)

Oil Gas and Coal Exploration (para 215)

Does the plan facilitate the exploration and extraction of hydrocarbons(215)

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