

## **General Conformity and Strategic Objectives (Neighbourhood Plans and Local Plans)**

### **Planning practice guidance**

The National Planning Policy Framework and relevant planning practice guidance.

Published 29 November 2016  
Last updated 22 October 2018

From:

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government**

Guidance

### **Neighbourhood planning**

The guidance explains the neighbourhood planning system introduced by the Localism Act, including key stages and considerations required.

Published 6 March 2014  
Last updated 13 September 2018

From:

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government**

## **General conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan**

### **What is meant by ‘general conformity’?**

When considering whether a policy is in general conformity a qualifying body, independent examiner, or local planning authority, should consider the following:

- whether the neighbourhood plan policy or development proposal supports and upholds the general principle that the strategic policy is concerned with
- the degree, if any, of conflict between the draft neighbourhood plan policy or development proposal and the strategic policy
- whether the draft neighbourhood plan policy or development proposal provides an additional level of detail and/or a distinct local approach to that set out in the strategic policy without undermining that policy
- the rationale for the approach taken in the draft neighbourhood plan or Order and the evidence to justify that approach

Paragraph: 074 Reference ID: 41-074-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

### **What is meant by strategic policies?**

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the strategic matters about which local planning authorities are expected to include policies in their Local Plans. The basic condition addresses strategic policies no matter where they appear in the development plan. It does not presume that every policy in a Local Plan is strategic or that the only policies that are strategic are labelled as such.

Paragraph: 075 Reference ID: 41-075-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

### **How is a strategic policy determined?**

Strategic policies will be different in each local planning authority area. When reaching a view on whether a policy is a strategic policy the following are useful considerations:

- whether the policy sets out an overarching direction or objective
- whether the policy seeks to shape the broad characteristics of development
- the scale at which the policy is intended to operate
- whether the policy sets a framework for decisions on how competing priorities should be balanced
- whether the policy sets a standard or other requirement that is essential to achieving the wider vision and aspirations in the Local Plan
- in the case of site allocations, whether bringing the site forward is central to achieving the vision and aspirations of the Local Plan
- whether the Local Plan identifies the policy as being strategic

Planning practice guidance on Local Plans provides further advice on strategic policies.

Paragraph: 076 Reference ID: 41-076-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

### **How does a qualifying body know what is a strategic policy?**

A local planning authority should set out clearly its strategic policies in accordance with paragraph 29 of the National Planning Policy Framework and provide details of these to a qualifying body and to the independent examiner.

Paragraph: 077 Reference ID: 41-077-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014