



Report for: INFORMATION
Item Number: 6

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	<i>NO – Part I</i>
Title	Report on ministerial statement of 6 March 2014
Responsible Officer(s)	Simon Hurrell, Head of Planning and Property Services
Contact officer, job title and phone number	Miles Thompson, Planning Policy Manager 01628 796055
Member reporting	Cllr M J Saunders, Lead Member for Planning and Property
For Consideration By	O&S Planning and Housing
Date to be Considered	1st May 2014
Implementation Date if Not Called In	
Affected Wards	All
Keywords/Index	National Planning Practice Guidance, duty to cooperate, flood risk, neighbourhood planning, green belt

Report summary

This report comments on some of the points of particular note in the ministerial statement of 6 March 2014, relating to the publication on-line of the final version of the National Planning Practice Guidance. A separate report to this meeting addresses those parts of the ministerial statement announcing the implementation of changes to the 'permitted development' regime.

In summary, the new guidance is presented in the ministerial statement as streamlining and consolidating 7,000 pages of previous guidance. It supplements, amplifies and supports existing policy, as set out principally in the National Planning Policy Framework. It does not therefore change existing or create new policy. The ministerial statement identified a series of points considered to be of particular note (see Appendix 1).

If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit?

Benefits to residents and reasons why they will benefit	Dates by which residents can expect to notice a difference
Report to be noted for information	

1. Details of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That O&S Panel note the introduction of the National Planning Practice Guidance.

3. Key Implications

The new guidance supplements, amplifies and supports existing policy, as set out principally in the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework). It does not therefore change existing or create new policy, and must be read, understood and applied in this context. The ministerial statement identified 13 points of particular note, listed as bullet points; see Appendix 1.

Several of the points of particular note reinforce the flexibility afforded to local planning authorities over planning for future housing needs (see points 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12 & 13). These are helpful to the council in maintaining its commitment to protect the green belt. At the same time, it should be noted that these measures do not affect the responsibility placed upon local planning authorities by the Framework to boost significantly the supply of housing and to ensure that Local Plans meet the full objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing. The underlying objective remains finding a sustainable form of development.

The points of particular note will have little or no impact on our work in preparing the Borough Local Plan because we were already working largely on the basis described.

4. Financial Details

There are no direct, significant financial implications.

5. Legal Implications

The National Planning Practice Guidance is a material consideration and where relevant must be taken into account by decision makers in preparing new policy documents, in determining planning applications and other planning decisions.

6. Value for Money

The national guidance supersedes a range of longer standing sources of guidance. There may be some time saving as a result of the reduction in the quantum of material available that planning officers must take account of. This may be off-set by additional time required to negotiate agreed approaches where previously guidance would have set the parameters. There is no practical means to quantify and anticipate these differences in time and therefore cost. They are considered unlikely to be significant in any one year.

7. Sustainability Impact Appraisal

None

8. Risk Management

There are no direct, significant risks. Existing working practices should ensure that the council's legal responsibility to have regard to the Guidance is met. Awareness of the Guidance will be promoted to groups preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans.

9. Links to Strategic Objectives

Our Strategic Objectives are:

Residents First

- Encourage healthy people and lifestyles
- Improve the environment, economy and transport
- Work for safer and stronger communities

Value for Money

- Deliver Economic Services

Delivering Together

- Strengthen Partnerships

Equip ourselves for the future

- Developing our systems and structures
- Changing our culture

10. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion

No Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) is required to be undertaken by the council in connection with this change in national guidance.

11. Staffing implications

There are no staffing implications.

12. Property and Assets

None.

13. Any other implications

None.

14. Consultation

None required.

15. Timetable for Implementation

Not applicable

16. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Copy of ministerial statement by Nick Boles, 6 March 2014

17. Background Information

18. Consultation (Mandatory)

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
Internal				
Cllr Burbage	Leader of the Council	n/a	n/a	Not required because not a cabinet report
Cllr MJ Saunders	Lead Member for Planning	22/04/14	22/04/14	No comments
Mike McGoughrin	Managing Director	22/04/14		No comment received
Suki Coe on behalf of Simon Hurrell	Head of Planning and Property	22/04/14		No comment received
Maria Lucas/Shared Legal Solutions	Head of Legal Services	22/04/14		No comment received
Mark Lampard	Finance partner	22/04/14	23/04/14	No comments

Report History

Decision type:	Urgency item?
For information	Yes

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