



## **Regional Partners & Stakeholders**

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Dear Colleague

## **PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE - LAUNCH OF THE PLANNING WHITE PAPER**

The Government has published today a Planning White Paper, *Planning for a Sustainable Future*.

The White Paper will take forward the proposals for major infrastructure projects recommended by Rod Eddington and developed by Kate Barker in their respective reviews. The White Paper will also respond to the recommendations made by Kate Barker for further improvements to the Town and Country Planning system.

In setting out new planning reforms the Government aims to:

### **Streamline planning and make it more accountable**

- By introducing a new system for major infrastructure, under which:
  - the Government will set a clear policy framework through national policy statements, for which Ministers will be clearly accountable to the public and Parliament;
  - decisions will then be taken more quickly by an independent, expert body on a transparent and objective basis, having regard to the national policy position;
- By reducing or removing planning requirements for minor household improvements like conservatories and solar panels;
- By speeding up the appeals system so disputed cases can be resolved more quickly;
- By ensuring more decisions are taken locally through the planning system.





## **Improve public consultation and make it easier for communities to engage in decisions which affect them**

- By ensuring there is thorough and effective consultation before national policy is set on key infrastructure issues;
- By making it a legal requirement for developers to consult local communities on major projects;
- By making public inquiries into major projects more accessible;
- By doubling the resources given to bodies such as Planning Aid which help disadvantaged and hard-to-reach groups get involved in planning decisions.

## **Ensure planning supports climate change and sustainable development**

- By ensuring policy on infrastructure integrates environmental, social and economic goals;
- By ensuring timely decisions on renewable energy projects vital to enable the shift to a low-carbon economy;
- By strengthening the way climate change and reducing emissions is taken into account in local planning decisions;
- By reaffirming the Government's commitment to protecting the greenbelt and putting towns centres first.

The White Paper will be subject to a 12 week period of consultation. It is accompanied by four separate consultation documents:

- Householder Permitted Development
- Planning Performance Agreements
- Planning Fees
- Planning Appeals

The White Paper and associated consultation documents are available on the CLG website at: [www.communities.gov.uk/planningwhitepaper](http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningwhitepaper) and I would encourage your participation in the consultation on these important documents. Should you wish to discuss any of this in more detail, I would be happy to do so, as would John Williamson (tel: 01223 372739, email: [john.williamson@goeast.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.williamson@goeast.gsi.gov.uk)) who is leading for us on the Planning White Paper.

Yours sincerely,

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