

improving culture, arts and sporting opportunities through planning

a good practice guide



appendix B

a national planning policy framework (NPPF) checklist for practitioners

NPPF policies

Summaries; see the NPPF (at the paragraphs noted) for the full policy wording – https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/60772/116950.pdf

Questions for planners to consider

Questions for culture, arts and sport professionals to consider

Achieving sustainable development

Planning performs a number of roles, including identifying and co-ordinating development and infrastructure requirements, providing accessible local services to support community health, social and cultural wellbeing, and to protect and enhance the environment.

Core planning principles (para. 17)

Planning should take account of and support local strategies to improve social and cultural wellbeing, and should deliver sufficient cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Ensuring the vitality of town centres (para. 23)

In drawing up Local Plans, local planning authorities should allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of leisure and cultural development needed in town centres. The NPPF's Annex 2 ('Glossary') sets out main town centre uses.

Supporting a prosperous rural economy (para. 28)

Local Plans and neighbourhood plans should promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as cultural buildings, sports venues and tourism facilities.

- How have your local authority's plans, policies and strategies set out aspirations for improving local wellbeing?
- What kinds of infrastructure provision, services and activities are needed to support and improve the wellbeing of communities in the local area?
- What links are there with the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy prepared by your local authority's public health team, and with other corporate level strategies?

- Does your local authority have a town centre management plan or strategy for maintaining and improving the town centre's vitality and diversity of uses?

- What conversations are you having with town centre managers on steps to ensure town centre vitality and diversity in terms of culture and leisure activities?

- In the light of discussions with parish or town councils on local provision and need, does the plan meet the requirements of this policy?

- Are there discussions with parish or town councils about the level of provision of – and access to – facilities and services that are required to meet needs arising from local growth?

NPPF policies

Questions for planners to consider

Questions for culture, arts and sport professionals to consider

Requiring good design (para. 58)

Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments function well and add to an area's overall quality over the lifetime of a development, establish a strong sense of place, using streetscapes and buildings to create attractive and comfortable places to live, work and visit; create and sustain an appropriate mix of uses; respond to local character and history; and incorporate green and other public spaces.

- Does the Local Plan (or one of its local development documents) clearly set out criteria for good design and the ways in which culture and sport provision can help to improve the quality of place, such as through the provision of public art?
- What conversations are you having with colleagues in the housing, urban design, and community safety teams?

- Can you demonstrate the contribution of good local design in discussions with local authorities, developers and other delivery partners?

Promoting healthy communities (paras 69-70)

Local planning authorities should create a shared vision with communities of the facilities they wish to be provided, and should aim to involve all sections of the community in the planning process. They should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, and places of worship) and other local services.

- Does the local planning process actively involve local artists, residents, professionals and cultural and sporting agencies?
- Is there a need to update the local authority's Community Strategy?
- See also the 'Plan-making – using a proportionate evidence base' section in this checklist

- Can you be more actively engaged in the local planning process, either through responding to consultations or by attending workshops?
- See also the 'Plan-making – using a proportionate evidence base' section in this checklist

Open space, sport and recreation (paras 73-78)

Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Existing open space and sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken and arrangements have been made for any necessary replacement or alternative provision. Local green space designations should be made only where the space in question is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance – for example, because of its historic significance or recreational value (including as a playing field).

- Does your local authority have a robust and up-to-date assessment in place? Does it identify priorities and projects to meet local demand?
- Have you considered local need and identified all formal and informal open space and recreation areas and so gained a full picture of assets and provision?
- Can existing green and open spaces in built-up areas be protected as a community asset?

- Have you contributed to the local assessment of need and provision, and engaged communities in assessment exercises?

NPPF policies	Questions for planners to consider	Questions for culture, arts and sport professionals to consider
<p>Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (paras 126-141) Local Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, recognising that heritage assets should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Does the Local Plan or one of its local development documents clearly set out a strategy or policies for the historic environment? ● How does this strategy link with the wider cultural agenda in terms of the design and provision of services and facilities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have you contributed to the local strategy?
<p>Plan-making – Local Plans (para. 156) Local Plans should set out the strategic priorities for the area, including strategic policies to deliver community and cultural infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Does the Local Plan identify the role of cultural provision in achieving local planning objectives? ● What is the overall impact on plan deliverability? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How effectively have you put across your case to the planners in the plan-making process?
<p>Plan-making – using a proportionate evidence base (paras 162, 169-171) Local planning authorities should work with other authorities and providers on an up-to-date, relevant evidence base which enables them both to take account of the needs of the local population (such as for sports and recreation) and to assess the significance of heritage assets and the contribution that they make to their environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is the existing evidence base still valid, and what new studies will be needed? ● Are there gaps in provision? ● Is there scope for setting viable local standards, and are they reflected in Section 106 policies? ● Have you worked with other public, voluntary and private sector organisations in the process? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What other robust and authoritative supporting evidence on the need for and provision of assets can you supply? ● How do you get involved in the development of the local authority's Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedules and infrastructure assessments?
<p>Ensuring viability and deliverability (paras 173-174) Local planning authorities should give careful attention to viability and costs in plan-making and decision-taking, to enable development to be deliverable. The cumulative impact of local standards and policies should not put implementation of the Local Plan at serious risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In taking forward Local Plan policies and local standards for culture, arts and sport, have you first considered their impact within the context of the Harman Review? ● In negotiating development planning obligations, have you first considered their impact within the context of current guidance on viability, and considered other contributions through CIL? ● Will further work or evidence be needed to ensure that the Local Plan is deliverable or that development which meets the objectives of both the local authority and developer can take place? 	

NPPF policies

Questions for planners to consider

Questions for culture, arts and sport professionals to consider

Planning strategically across local boundaries (para. 179)

Local planning authorities should work collaboratively with other bodies to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly co-ordinated and clearly reflected in Local Plans. They should consider producing joint planning policies on strategic matters and informal strategies such as joint infrastructure and investment plans.

- What can you produce jointly as the result of your co-operation (for example a jointly prepared strategy or policy)?
- What mechanisms or structures are there to continue the process of co-operation?
- Have you worked with key bodies and partnerships on developing strategic priorities? What support can they offer you in developing planning priorities and an effective delivery strategy?

Neighbourhood plans (paras 183-185)

Neighbourhood plans should reflect the strategic policies of the Local Plan, and neighbourhoods should plan positively to support them.

- Have you consulted with colleagues in the property and/or regeneration teams to identify how best to use existing assets or new cultural provision to underpin area regeneration?
- Is there scope to consider the costs and benefits of a culture-led neighbourhood plan for an area?
- Are cultural or leisure practitioners represented in the development of neighbourhood plans?

Decision-taking (paras 199-200 and 203)

Local planning authorities should consider using Local Development Orders to relax planning controls where this would promote social or environmental gains for an area, or using Article 4 directions to remove national permitted development rights to protect local amenity or an area's wellbeing. Local planning authorities should consider whether otherwise unacceptable development could be made acceptable through the use of conditions or planning obligations.

- Is there scope to relax controls or restrict certain uses or developments to help improve service provision – for example by allowing changes of use for cultural activities?
- Will planning obligations place unnecessary financial burdens on development?
- Will planning obligations meet the key tests of necessity and direct relationship to the scale and kind of development?

- Can you present evidence to planning colleagues to enable them to develop policies and make informed judgements on planning applications?
- How do you ensure that provision can be delivered without impacting on development viability?

Consider also:

- *Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist*. Planning Advisory Service, Jan. 2013. <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=109568>
- 'NPPF and health and wellbeing checklist'. Section 4 within A. Ross, with M. Chang: *Reuniting Health with Planning – Healthier Homes, Healthier Communities. How Planning and Public Health Practitioners Can Work together to Implement Health and Planning Reforms in England*. TCPA, Jul. 2012. http://www.tcpa.org.uk/data/files/Health_and_planning/TCPA_FINAL_Reuniting-health-planning_NPPF_Checklist.pdf