



By Email Only

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Message from Chief Planner

This newsletter provides a short update on latest announcements relating to planning policy and practice. Can I commend the Natural England Green Infrastructure Mapping tool to you? It captures rich and important spatial data on a user-friendly digital platform. It's a taste of things to come as we modernise the use of digital data and information to both make plans and manage development.

I've also been reflecting on the sad news about Lord Richard Rogers' passing. In returning to his report "Towards an Urban Renaissance" published in 1999, approaches that seemed novel and radical 20+ years ago are now embedded in our practice. As Richard wrote in the foreword to the report "But achieving an urban renaissance is not only about numbers and percentages. It is about creating the quality of life and vitality that makes urban living desirable. To stem a long period of decline and decay, pessimism and under-investment, we must bring about a change in urban attitudes so that towns and cities once again become attractive places in which to live, work and socialise.... regeneration has to be design-led. But to be sustainable, regeneration also has to be placed within its economic and social context. There are essential issues—education, health, welfare and security." And as Pasqual Maragall (Former Mayor of Barcelona) noted "It is also by relating in a clever and efficient manner the well-being of cities to that of countryside, or more properly, it is by understanding human space as a network of centres of different size and density, that we will approach the goal of finding fitting solutions to real problems. It is critical to understand that improving public space is relevant to solving social and economic problems."

These are wise words that made a real and lasting difference. We have achieved a lot in those 20+ years. Planners, urban designers, architects, landscape architects, engineers, project managers, developers, surveyors and their councillors, communities and clients can be proud. I am sure there will be mixed emotions as we approach this festive season, on top of what have been challenging times. But remember, you're doing a great job. Wishing you all a happy and restful Christmas and better days ahead.

Kind regards

Joanna Averley
Chief Planner



Launch of Green Infrastructure Mapping

Natural England would like to invite you to explore its new [Green Infrastructure Framework web portal](#). There is lots of great information that can help in planning your Green Infrastructure (GI) network. The elements of the GI Framework now published – the GI Principles and GI Mapping – will help local planning authorities and developers meet requirements in the National Planning Policy Framework to consider GI in local plans and in new development. The GI Framework is also being developed to enable other organisations and groups such as parks and green space managers and local communities to think more about GI and plan for its creation or improvement.

The [GI Mapping Database](#) brings together data from over 40 individual environmental and socio-economic datasets. Local authorities and others may use the database to inform the development of local plans, policies and GI strategies, and can download the spatial files to add their own data to it. It can be used in engagement with stakeholders, including developers and communities, to help identify priorities for GI enhancement and creation.

Good quality GI has an important role to play in our urban and rural environments. It's important for health and wellbeing, air quality, nature recovery and for delivering net zero targets, as well as for adapting to climate change by providing urban cooling and reducing flood risk. It can help to address issues of social inequality and environmental decline, whilst also making better places to live.

The GI Framework is a commitment in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. The GI Framework will be fully available in autumn 2022. Additional elements will include the core GI Standards, from which local authorities can set their own local standards, for example on accessible natural green space or urban greening. It will also include a GI Design Guide, case studies and 'process journeys', intended to assist different audiences in applying the GI Framework.

Planning Propriety Guidance

Following a recent review, an updated version of the planning propriety guidance has been published. The revised guidance aims to be a practical and accessible document which provides clarity to all parties about their roles and responsibilities and sets clear expectations. In particular, the guidance provides advice for ministers in DLUHC charged with making decisions under the planning legislation. It can be found [here](#).



Lorry Parking in planning: Written Ministerial Statement

On 8th November, the Secretary of State for Transport with support from DLUHC made a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) to Parliament about the vital importance of the freight and logistics sector to shops, households, assembly lines, hospitals and other public services across the country. Lorry Parking facilities are essential infrastructure for the effective and resilient supply chains we need, and we are committed to addressing the strategic national need for more and better lorry parking facilities in England.

As outlined in the WMS, the NPPF is clear that local planning policies and decisions should recognise the importance of providing adequate overnight lorry parking facilities, taking into account any local shortages, to reduce the risk of parking in locations that lack proper facilities or could cause a nuisance. The WMS also points to the Planning Practice Guidance we've previously published, to help explain how to assess the need for and allocate land for logistics land uses.

In the WMS, we committed to a review of guidance relevant to the freight and logistics sector, and our colleagues at the Department for Transport are carrying out a fresh iteration of the [National Lorry Parking Survey](#) to better understand the data on lorry parking spaces available, and to make sure strong evidence on the national picture is available. The WMS is available [here](#).

Further Measures to Ease Supply Chain Pressures

In response to the acute shortages of HGV drivers across the distribution network and inconsistent construction output, on 10 December the Minister of State for Housing laid a Written Ministerial Statement to Parliament.

The Statement made clear that local planning authorities should take a positive approach to their engagement with all supply chain stakeholders to ensure planning controls are not a barrier to the supply of all goods and services; and that local planning authorities should respond positively to requests for flexibility for operation of construction sites to support the sector's recovery.

These measures will remain in place until 30 September 2022. The Written Ministerial Statement can be found [here](#).



Round 2 of the PropTech Engagement Fund is now open!

The DLUHC Digital Planning Team has launched Round 2 of the PropTech Engagement Fund for Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) and joint LPA projects. This round will demonstrate how digital engagement can incentivise communities to positively engage in planning conversations through guidance on the trade-offs and wider benefits of development.

The programme intends to fund up to 10 projects that address one of five themes: Masterplanning, Council-led Development, Estate Regeneration, Community Development, and a 'Wildcard' theme. Individual LPAs can apply for up to £125,000 of funding, while joint LPA projects can apply for up to £300,000 of funding.

The Expression of Interest will be open for 6 weeks from 15 December 2021 until 25 January 2022.

Full guidance and application details: <https://www.localdigital.gov.uk/proptech-engagement-fund-round-2>