

Government Reform of the Planning System

Planning Policy Committee, 18:00, February 27th 2025



South East Lincolnshire
Joint Strategic Planning Committee

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Background of Reforms:

- Assist with the delivery of 370,000 new homes per year during the governments administration
- Speed up the Development Plan making process
- Modernise and speed up Development Management decision making
- Empowering local government in England through the Devolution White Paper
- Facilitating regional growth and improving public services through increased local autonomy

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New NPPF Main Changes:

- **Streamlined Planning Permissions**
- **Mandatory Local Plans with penalties for non-compliance (Intervention)**
- **New Standard Method for calculating housing need**
- **Three-month transition period (to 12 March 2025) for some (but not all) advanced plans to proceed under the former NPPF (December 2023)**
- **Stronger emphasis on necessary infrastructure improvements, climate change and sustainability**
- **Introduction of the concept of Nature Recovery Networks and emphasis on Biodiversity Net Gain**
- **Facilitating NSIP Projects such as laboratories, data centres, and infrastructure projects faster**
- **Greater emphasis on Design and Design Codes**
- **Strengthened Duty to Cooperate including new mechanisms for cross boundary strategic planning (formalised in New Legislation – Spring 2025)**

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Impacts on Housing Delivery for the East Lindsey Local Plan:

- 5YHLS to end of December 2024 (using new standard method)
- ELDC – 3.22 years and 3.08 years including the 5% buffer
- Under old Standard Method figure for ELDC was 5.36 years and 5.13 years including the 5% buffer.
- Previously the HDT has been passed under the previous Standard Method however, this will be unlikely under the New Standard Method.
- Current calculations show that 61.68% of the past 5 year housing requirement has been met.
- An error has been made by MHCLG on the housing stock used to calculate the New Housing Method for ELDC and this has yet to be resolved.

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Devolution White Paper Main Proposals:

- **Expansion of Mayoral Powers**
- **Structural Reforms**
- **Shared strategic decision making across Local Authority Areas**
- **Ability to unlock investment opportunities through central government**
- **Standardization of Devolution Processes**
- **Unitary Council's expectation to cover populations of over 500,000**

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Impacts on the East Lindsey Local Plan Review:

- **Additional evidence required to support a development strategy constrained by a significantly higher housing target.**
- **Additional resource that would need to be made available to undertake the full Local Plan review**
- **Additional work to consider outcomes of the Lincs 2100+ strategy and action plan and subsequent timetable considering for the Local Plan review**
- **Uncertainty on the future of devolution and local plan making at East Lindsey**

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Conclusions and Next Steps:

- Intention to commence a Local Plan review under the new NPPF
- Will be publishing 5 Year Housing Land Supply Position Statements in April 2025 as instructed
- Planning and Infrastructure Bill is expected this year and a number of working papers are being published to inform this.
- Will keep members briefed of any revision of the Local Development Scheme and Local Plan Review timetable