

Local Planning Regulations

Consultation questions

We are seeking your views on the following questions on the Government's proposal for new local planning regulations.¹ **If possible, we would be grateful if you could respond by email.** Alternatively, we would be happy to receive responses by post.

Email responses to: lpregsconsultation@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Written responses to:

Martin Bridgman
Communities and Local Government
Zone 1/J1
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

(a) About you

(i) Your details

Name:	Stephen Russell
Position:	Policy and Public Affairs Officer
Name of organisation (if applicable):	Landscape Institute
Address:	Charles Darwin House 12 Roger Street London WC1N 2JU
Email Address:	stephenr@landscapeinstitute.org
Telephone number:	020 7685 2649

(ii) Are the views expressed on this consultation an official response from the organisation you represent or your own personal views?

Organisational response

Personal views

¹

See <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/publications/consultations>

(iii) Are your views expressed on this consultation in connection with your membership or support of any group? If yes please state name of group.

Yes X
No

Name of group:

(iv) Please tick the *one* box which best describes you or your organisation:

Private developer or house builder

Housing association or RSL

Land owner

Voluntary sector or charitable organisation

Business, consultant, professional advisor

National representative body

Professional body X

Parish council

Local government (i.e. district, borough, county, unitary, etc.)

Other public body (please state)

Other (please state)

(v) Would you be happy for us to contact you again in relation to this consultation?

Yes X

No

(b) Consultation questions

1(a) - Do you agree that the revised regulations effectively reflect the changes proposed in the Localism Bill?

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Neither agree or Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Strongly Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1(b) If you have any comments please enter these below

n/a

2(a) Do you agree with the list of bodies included in the duty to cooperate?

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Neither agree or Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disagree | X |

2(b) If you have any comments please enter these below

We think the duty to co-operate should be with a wider group of bodies that enables a landscape scale perspective to be taken to spatial planning over a local authority area. This is important in ensuring that the duties under the European Landscape Convention (ELC) can be met. In particular "*to integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.*"

Local authority boundaries do not correspond with landscape designations or character areas, thus requiring a collaborative approach to strategic and local green infrastructure provision. This is especially important because of the benefits of multifunctional open space and the importance of strategic linkages for landscape, biodiversity and transport reasons.

The need for landscape-scale approaches includes strategic green

infrastructure networks, which are relevant to rural and urban areas and which have a particular importance in peri-urban areas, biodiversity, recreation and tourism, climate change mitigation and many more functions.

The National Ecosystem Assessment Report and the Defra Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) highlight the substantial benefits of green infrastructure provision and the concepts that it embraces. Most of the published or emerging regional plans identified proposals for green infrastructure networks at a sub-regional scale. Successful delivery of these will be highly dependent on collaborative approaches by local authorities, public agencies, land-managing organisations and a number of other stakeholders and this will need to be informed by cross-cutting strategic and spatial planning policy that is required through the duty to co-operate.

These points are relevant to the entire plan-making process as well as giving rise to a number of further areas for co-operation.

We therefore consider the following should be added to the list of bodies to be included:

- **Forestry Commission**
- **Statutory service undertakers / utility companies - e.g. water, drainage, energy, tele-communications.**
- **Waste and minerals authorities**
- **Community Forests**
- **English Heritage (historic landscapes)**
- **Green Infrastructure network organisations (in some areas these may be part of or relate to LEP areas. But in others they may comprise groupings of local authorities).**
- **Adjacent local authorities**

3(a) Do you agree the revised regulations effectively consolidate the 2004 regulations with the revisions in 2008 and 2009?

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Neither agree or Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Strongly Disagree

3(b) If you have any comments please enter these below

n/a

4(a) Are there any ways in which the regulations should be changed in order to improve the process of preparing local plans, within the powers set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Localism Bill?

Yes

No

4(b) If 'Yes', please specify below.

n/a