

Have your say

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Dear Jo,

[The Planning White Paper, Planning for the Future](#), is now out for public consultation. This paper sets out proposed planning reforms that the Government states will streamline and modernise the planning process.

Locality believes that the reforms may mean that neighbourhood plans will have a much more slimmed down scope. Below, we present a summary of potential implications that people like you involved in neighbourhood plan making may be interested in. Please note this is based on our own understanding.

Don't forget, the White Paper is only a consultation and the final approach will be decided by the Government after it has received responses to the consultation.

Until the outcome of the consultation, the planning system continues to operate as normal and there are no immediate implications on neighbourhood plan making. Neighbourhood plans continue to have the same statutory weight and scope that they were afforded when launched in 2012. **If you are preparing a plan, we urge you to continue with this.**

How will the proposed reforms affect you?

When you read through our summary of the potential implications (below) and [the White Paper](#) we suggest you ask yourself this question:

- **What do you think a reduction in the scope of neighbourhood plans might mean for you?**

Either as a group preparing a plan, as a group with a made neighbourhood plan, or as a group thinking of remaking a plan.

If your answer to this question worries or concerns you, below we suggest some things you can do about it.

Have your say about the proposed reforms

You can do one or all of these things to make sure your voice gets heard:

1. Write a letter to your MP

Locality has prepared a draft letter that you can send to your MP, or adapt if you do have concerns. It is specifically designed for neighbourhood planning groups that are concerned about what impacts the reforms may have on the value of neighbourhood plans in their area. MPs can then raise concerns in Parliament and discuss them with The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

[Download the template letter to send to your MP](#)

2. Respond directly to the planning consultation

You can [submit your responses](#) directly to the Government. The deadline to submit your response is **11.45pm on Thursday 29 October**.

[Submit your response to government](#)

3. Tell Locality what you think

You can [complete our survey](#) and we will take your views into account when developing our response to the consultation document.

By completing the survey, you confirm that you are happy for us to quote your answers. However, all persons and organisations will be anonymised. Please complete the survey **no later than Friday 11 September**.

[Answer our survey to tell us what you think](#)

If you do have concerns, you may want to do all of the above.



Summary of potential implications for neighbourhood plan making

The White Paper does not go into detail on what shape any reforms to neighbourhood plans could take. However, it suggests to us that the scope of what neighbourhood plans can do may be reduced in a manner similar to the approach suggested for local plans.

Without details, it is difficult to be definitive, but based on our interpretation of the document, the following could be potential implications:

- Neighbourhood plans would be able to continue to include detailed design guidance and codes (something they can do under the current planning system) to shape development. There would be a move towards the use of digital tools to help groups when preparing plans. Tools could include 3D visualisation technologies to explore proposals within the local context, making it more accessible.
- Neighbourhood plans may not be able to allocate sites for development (including housing), and it is not clear if they will/will not be able to categorise land under the categories of growth, renewal and protected (this is not made explicitly clear in the document).
- Neighbourhood plans may largely not be able to include development management policies, i.e. policies that planning officers normally take into account when deciding on planning applications, for example, policies that seek to protect the vitality of the high street (this is not made explicitly clear in the document).

You can [read our full summary](#) of potential implications, including implications on local plans and public participation in decision making to find out more about how these reforms may affect you.

Read our full summary of potential
implications

Best wishes,

Ruth Breidenbach-Roe
Policy Manager



Locality
33 Corsham Street
London
N1 6DR

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