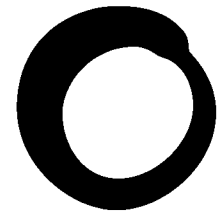


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# Infosheet

## Planning policy



**Friends of  
the Earth**

### **What is planning policy?**

Planning policy can be both local and national. It's a legally required part of the local development framework (your local plan). The Secretary of State is also obliged to set out national planning policy.

An example of planning policy:

*"There is a presumption in favour of retail developments which make a primary contribution to sustaining local businesses and local food producers."*

### **Why do I want to know about it?**

If you have strong, clear planning policy, developers will look at the policy and will make their application deliver on that policy. This is because they know that they have a better chance of getting approval for their development if it is in line with the policy in the local development framework. So policies that are set out in local development frameworks describe the type of development that the local council wants to encourage. You have a chance to influence what sort of policy is in the local development frameworks, which in turn helps influence the sort of development that happens in your community.

### **Who's in charge of planning policy?**

There are two main players in planning policy.

The Department for Communities and Local Government, led by the Secretary of State, who sets out national planning policy, on areas such as economic development or conservation. These go out for consultation before being finalised.

Your local council is in charge of drafting policies for your local plan (LDF). You have a chance to have your say when your local plan is being prepared. Remember that developers will also be arguing for policies around development that they want.

### **What's happening at the moment?**

The Government really wants to encourage more development so it is making it easier for development to happen. So its going to be publishing new national planning guidance, and getting rid of a lot of technical detail and policy that were in place to safeguard your environment.

### **Take action**

Your local plan will be prepared or revised, and when this happens you can get involved by responding and suggesting the sorts of policies that you think will help guide the type of development that your community wants.

You can also respond to the consultation on national planning policy changes (due in July 2011). For more information see our web site.