

# Session 2

## How's this going to work?

Roy Hymas, PAS

- What we've heard
  - Play a game!
  - Hear from our guest speakers
  - Take part in a poll
  - Talk about it with our panel
  - Make sense of it??
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# What we've heard so far...

- There are significant opportunities
  - But planning can't do everything
  - Local leadership
  - Capacity and capability
  - Deliver in partnership with and through others
  - Benefits of strategic planning
  - Can we change the way we plan for the environment?
-

# We've made some things...

**New environmental planning work for LPAs - last updated January 23**  
Planning Advisory Service - draft!

Topic	Implications for strategic planning	LURB	NPPF 2021	NPPF Prospectus	Env Act	25 YEP	Other relevant policy/legislation	Legal requirement (must have)	Policy requirement (should have)	Guidance/Local
Air quality	Proposed changes to the Local AQM Framework and air quality targets in Env Act will have implications for LPAs e.g., designating AQMAs, strategic land use decisions to promote sustainable development, nature based solutions to mitigate air pollution. Links to Habitats Regulations.		Y		Y			Y	Y	
Biodiversity net gain	New duties and requirements for local authorities to embed BNG in plan and decision making. Links to nature based solutions for a range of ecosystem services, environmental markets/habitat banks, and meeting Env Act targets. Will be embedded in NPPF update.		Y		Y			Y		
Biodiversity reporting	All local authorities required to produce biodiversity reports every five years (commencing 2024).				Y			Y		
Climate change adaptation/mitigation and net zero	Planned changes to NPPF and use of NDMCs to set out enhanced expectations for LPAs and the role of planning. This includes renewable energy e.g., onshore wind, Nature Based Solutions and the development of a carbon market.		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	
Conservation Covenants	New legal agreements to support BNG and nature recovery - for nature conservation and heritage, potential for broad application, can be used to secure BNG and support nature recovery - implications/opportunities for LPAs in various ways depending on the role they decide to take, but all will need to be aware.				Y					

Local Government Association 

## Key Insights?

- Political and corporate leadership** at a local level is an essential pre-requisite for mainstreaming the environment in planning.
- The new environmental agenda and planning reform means that Local Plans will need to take a more **coherent and streamlined** approach to developing **policy** objectives in relation to the environment.
- Development management considerations are integral to good plan-making so that **decision making** is efficient and balances multiple policy objectives in a place.
- This is a new and evolving area of work with many strands, and planning authorities will need to develop **new skills and knowledge** with internal and external partners.
- Consideration of how policy objectives will be **integrated and funded to deliver multi-functional land use** is a key component of good planning for a better environment.

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**DRAFT**

## What makes a good Local Plan for the environment?

Planning Advisory Service, February 2023

### Introduction

The purpose of this report is to summarise what Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are doing to plan for a better environment and how they can potentially capitalise on the opportunities of the environment and climate change agenda. It is a starting point, and we hope that it generates further discussion and ideas regarding best practice.

It is based on set of informal interviews with a small sample of Local Planning Authorities between December 22 and January 23.

The report is in four parts which can be read individually or as a whole.

Part One provides some background to the work and identifies five key insights.

Part Two proposes a five-point plan that we think will help LPAs to capitalise on the opportunities.

Part Three provides a comprehensive synthesis and summary of all the insights gathered and includes relevant case studies.

Part 4 summarises the implications for plan-making.

### Part One

#### Background

Planning reform, the Environment Act and Improvement Plan, and the Government's broader consideration of land use in England, provide significant opportunities for planning to play a key role in meeting Government's aspiration to create a better environment for future generations.

And yet we know from our work with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), including biodiversity net gain, nature recovery and nutrient neutrality, that this is a complex agenda requiring integrated, coordinated approaches to achieve multifunctional benefits from the use of land.

As more and more LPAs respond to this rapidly evolving policy agenda, they will need to consider what makes a good Local Plan for the environment. We know that many LPAs have worked hard to take account of the evolving legal and policy context in reviewing their Local Plans in recent years. We are also aware of the significant amount of work LPAs are engaged

# Guess who?

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## PAS Conference 2023



# Planning for the Environment Panel Session

**Maurice Brophy**, Service Manager, Planning & Housing Strategy, Lancaster CC

**Mark Dickens**, Lead Officer – Spatial Planning, Liverpool City Region CA

**Emma Goodings**, Head of Planning & Economic Growth, Braintree DC

**Dave Roberts**, Head of Planning Policy, DLUHC

**Lucy Hancock**, Head of Planning & Infrastructure, DEFRA Land Use Division

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**[www.local.gov.uk/pas](http://www.local.gov.uk/pas)**

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# **Emma Goodings**

**Head of Planning & Economic Growth**

**Braintree District Council**

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# **Mark Dickens**

**Lead Officer – Spatial Planning**

**Liverpool City Region  
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# What progress are you making?

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# What do you think?

The NPPF prospectus queries how the planning system should capitalise on opportunities to support the natural environment and respond to climate change.

- How are you going to capitalise on the opportunities?
  - What are your priorities?
  - What do you think you will do more/less of or differently?
  - What do you need to help you achieve it?
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