



Environmental Audit Committee

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Mr Clive Betts
Chair
Communities and Local Government Committee
House of Commons

9 November 2011

Dear Clive,

National Planning Policy Framework

Our two committees announced linked but separate inquiries in late July on the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Your inquiry is examining whether the NPPF forms an adequate, clear and comprehensive framework of national planning policy. As we agreed, our inquiry has examined the extent to which the NPPF reflects sustainable development principles.

We took evidence on 12 October from the Campaign to Protect Rural England, the National Trust, the Town & Country Planning Association, Friends of the Earth, the Home Builders Federation and the British Property Federation, and CLG and Defra ministers Greg Clark MP and Richard Benyon MP. Since then, there has also been a debate on the NPPF in the House on 20 October, and the Localism Bill completed its parliamentary stages on 7 November.

The Annex to this letter, which has been agreed by the Committee, sets out our views on the sustainable development aspects of the draft NPPF, and includes recommendations that your Committee might consider when it produces its report. We have endeavoured not to duplicate the issues that you are covering.

I am copying this letter to Greg Clark and to the Prime Minister.

Best regards,

Joan Walley MP
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee