



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
*Secretary of State for Housing,
Communities and Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and
Local Government**
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To: Sarah Richards BSc, MPhil, MRTPI
Chief Executive, Planning Inspectorate

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02 August 2021

Dear Ms. Richards,

Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework

On 20 July 2021, we introduced a number of important changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to support councils in delivering beautiful places to live and work and to ensure that communities have greater influence over development location and design. This included a specific change to NPPF paragraph 22 to encourage local authorities to employ long-term thinking in developing their local plan visions, where appropriate, to enable sustainable development.

These proposals for a long-term vision for new settlements and major urban extensions were welcomed, and our consultation response set out that the Government would consider whether further clarification might be required in guidance to clarify the evidence base needed to support a 30-year vision.

I understand that some local authorities have expressed concern about the implications of the paragraph 22 change for their emerging local plans.

While this change does not affect plans already published¹ or submitted for examination prior to 21 July, it is something that planning Inspectors will need to take into account when examining plans published thereafter.

Given the feedback we have received, in line with our commitment in our consultation response, I have asked my officials to prepare a planning practice guidance update on the way local authorities should reflect the recent NPPF paragraph 22 changes in their local plans to ensure that plan preparation can continue at pace whilst also ensuring that the Government's objectives are delivered.

¹ *The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012* (SI 2012/767), s.19.
Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/regulation/19>

I would ask that your Inspectors are alive to these policy changes and forthcoming guidance when this is made available shortly. I would also welcome further engagement with my officials at the appropriate time, to ensure Inspectors reflect this new policy in a pragmatic and proportionate way.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Jenrick." The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a single horizontal line.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP