

Breckland District Councillor for Launditch
Supplementary Report February 2024

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):

On the 16th December the government issued a long awaited amendment to the NPPF. The updated NPPF outlines the governments planning policies and how the details will be applied, including various reforms to housing delivery.

The main new provision is as follows:

Under previous versions of the NPPF, all local planning authorities (LPAs) were required to continually demonstrate a deliverable five-year housing land supply. The revised version states that LPAs will not need to meet this requirement if their adopted Local Plan is less than 5 years old with at least a “five-year supply of specific deliverable sites”. Breckland’s Local Plan is up to date and will not have to demonstrate a 5-year supply of housing land.

Under the previous NPPF, all LPAs were required to build a buffer of 5% (as matter of course to mitigate for under delivery), 10% or 20% (depending on their performance in delivering homes) into their calculations on 5 year housing land supply.

In the revised NPPF the 5% and 10% buffers have been removed. The 20% buffer has been retained and the retention applies when housing delivery falls below 85% of the requirement, as calculated by the annual Housing Delivery Test (HDT) which looks at housing delivery over the previous 3 years. Breckland’s HDT figure is currently 116%.

The above changes are important as they remove the probability of having to grant planning permissions which are in locations not allocated or planned for in the local plan. That is the “presumption of sustainable development” outlined in the NPPF.

The other changes to the NPPF are:

- Local authorities will have greater flexibility in relation to identifying housing need in their area.
- Clarifies that there may be situations where higher densities of dwellings may be out of character with an area, especially where a design code has been prepared as part of the local plan.

- Increases the level of protection from the presumption afforded by a neighbourhood plan from 2 to 5 years post adoption, providing it identifies one housing site.
- Gives additional support to the delivery of self-build, custom build and community led housing and encourages the delivery of older peoples housing.
- Emphasises the role of beauty and placemaking in strategic policies.
- Gives greater protection to agricultural land through additional reference to the need to address food production.
- Provides greater support for energy efficiency measures.

D-Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations:

Breckland are offering 2 grant schemes to support celebrations of the 80th anniversary of D-Day in June.

The D-Day Community Grant scheme provides a grant of up to £500 to eligible community groups or organisations (not parish councils). Details of eligible local organisations and what the grant can be used for are on the Breckland website. To discuss the grant scheme please contact community@breckland.gov.uk .

The D-Day Match Funding Grant Scheme is open to parish councils for the sole purpose of purchasing a beacon to mark the 8th anniversary. Up to £300 or 50% match funding is available. Details on th Breckland website, to discuss an application please contact community@breckland.gov.uk .

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