

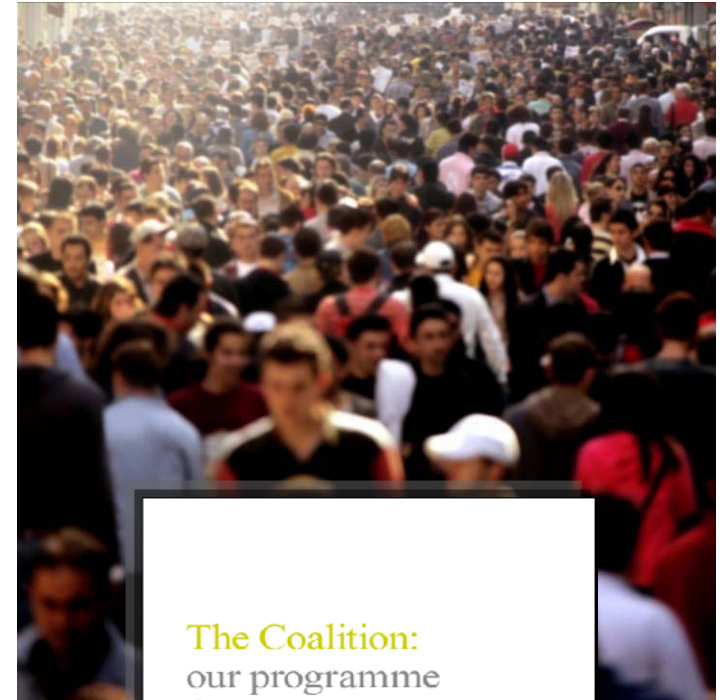
Overview of Coalition Government Planning Reforms

Míde Beaumont and Nick Tennant

National Planning Forum- 1 March

Reform agenda

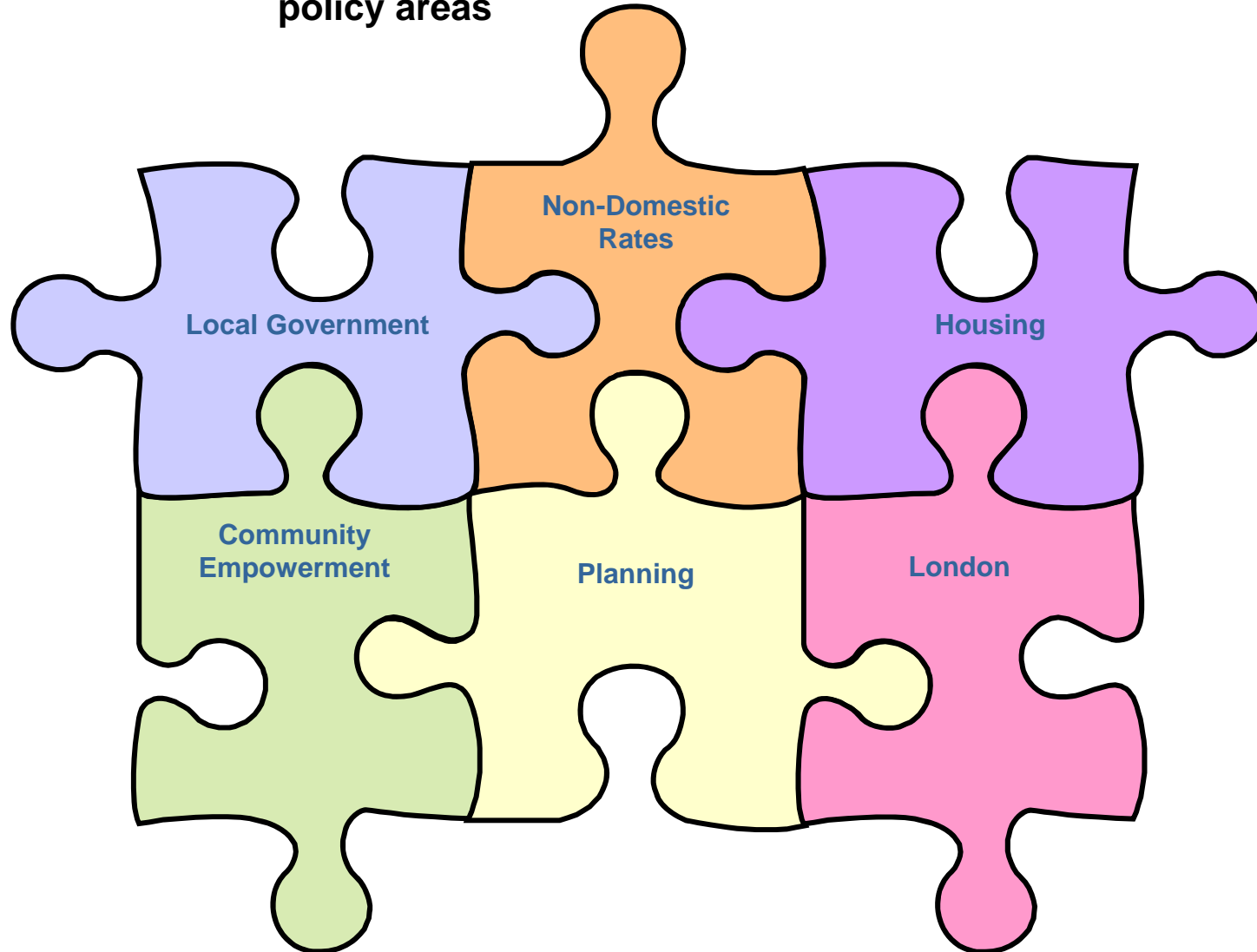
- Absolute commitment to housing and economic growth
- Continue to protect and enhance the natural and historic environment
- Put power back into the hands of local people: moving away from top down targets and prescription in regulations
- Delivering a simpler and more effective system
- Introduce powerful incentives so communities gain the benefits of growth
- Restore the idea that development can be a force for good, rather than something to be resisted at all costs



The Coalition:
our programme
for government

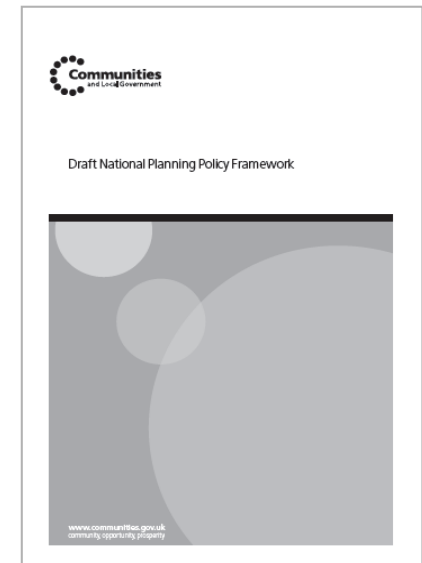
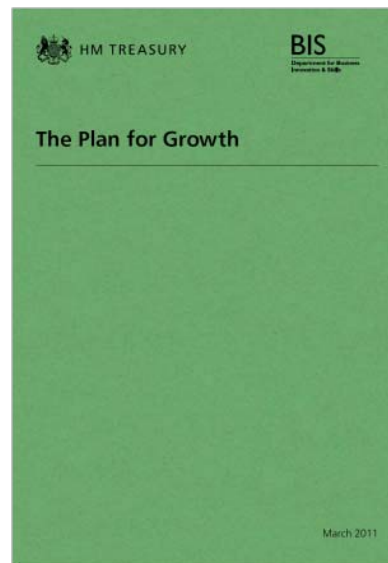
The Localism Act

Made up of a number of interlinked policy themes with over 40 policy areas



The vehicles at our disposal.....

- The Localism Act and Regulations
- The Growth Review and subsequent changes to the system
- The National Planning Policy Framework



- Proposed abolition of regional strategies
- Government is **committed to strategic, cross boundary planning** - on issues that need to be effectively addressed at a larger than local scale
- But it's strategic planning in the context of localism
- Rather than setting rules and structures Government will remove barriers and provide a range of tools to address strategic planning issues

So what are the tools?

Duty to Cooperate – a key element of strategic planning

Requires local planning authorities and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in relation to planning of sustainable development

Applies to local planning authorities, county councils and bodies that have been prescribed in draft regulations

Applies when planning for strategic matters in relation to:

- the preparation of local and Marine Plans, and
- other activities that prepare the way for these activities

Does the duty bite on LEPs?

LEPs are not subject to the duty

But the bodies that are subject to the duty will be required to have regard to the activities of LEPs when they are preparing their local and marine plans and related activities

This is intended to strengthen strategic planning on economic activity and infrastructure delivery

On what issues do we expect cooperation?

Draft NPPF states that councils should work jointly, in particular to provide for:

- Housing and economic development requirements
- Retail, leisure and commercial development
- Infrastructure for transport, minerals, waste, telecoms, water supply/quality
- Health, security, community infrastructure
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Protection/enhancement of the natural & historic environment, and coastal management

- **Engagement required includes considering:**
 - i) whether to enter into agreements on joint approaches
 - ii) whether to prepare joint local plans (if an LPA)
- Local planning authorities are **required to demonstrate compliance** with the duty as part of the examination of local plans. Where they cannot...they may not pass the independent examination.

- Duty to Cooperate is intended to **promote a culture change and spirit of partnership** working on strategic cross boundary issues e.g. environment, economy and infrastructure
- Working alongside incentives, such as the New Homes Bonus, the Duty will **act as a strong driver to change the behaviour** of local authorities
- Proven benefits to cooperation of cross boundary issues!

What else are we doing to help councils plan strategically?

Measures to remove bureaucracy/increase flexibility in the Localism Act and draft local planning regulations

Single Issue Reviews

Simplified arrangements for joint working

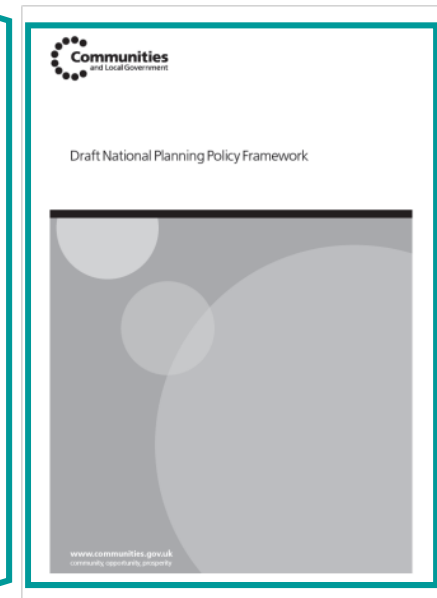
National Planning Policy Framework



Streamline national policy -
make it more accessible

Promote sustainable growth

Protect and enhance the
natural and historic
environment



What does this mean for local plans?

- Status of local plans will not change with the Localism Act or when the final National Planning Policy Framework comes into force
- Local plans will continue to be part of the development plan – remain the first point of reference for decisions on planning applications and appeals
- Local plans are key to setting strategic priorities, and the context for neighbourhood plans. Local authorities should carry on preparing them

Local Enterprise Partnerships

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS

Key

- 1 - North Eastern
- 2 - Cumbria
- 3 - Tees Valley
- 4 - York and North Yorkshire
- 5 - Lancashire
- 6 - Leeds City Region
- 7 - Liverpool City Region
- 8 - Greater Manchester
- 9 - Humber
- 10 - Sheffield City Region
- 11 - Cheshire and Warrington
- 12 - Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
- 13 - Lincolnshire
- 14 - Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire
- 15 - Leicester and Leicestershire
- 16 - The Marches
- 17 - Black Country
- 18 - Greater Birmingham and Solihull
- 19 - Northamptonshire
- 20 - Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough
- 21 - New Anglia
- 22 - Coventry and Warwickshire
- 23 - Worcestershire
- 24 - South East Midlands
- 25 - Gloucestershire
- 26 - Hertfordshire
- 27 - Buckinghamshire Thames Valley
- 28 - Oxfordshire
- 29 - London
- 30 - Thames Valley Berkshire
- 31 - West of England
- 32 - Swindon and Wiltshire
- 33 - Enterprise M3
- 34 - South East
- 35 - Coast to Capital
- 36 - Solent
- 37 - Dorset
- 38 - Heart of the South West
- 39 - Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly



Legend

-  Local Enterprise Partnership
-  Local Authority in overlapping LEPs
-  Local Authority

- June 2010 – Government invited business / authorities to form public private sector partnerships
- Aim- drive sustainable economic growth and create the conditions for private sector job growth
- Oct 2010 – first 24 partnerships went forward
- Today- 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships covering the whole country

Have come a long way in 18 months, but now the focus is on delivery.....

- **Ambition-** LEPs and local planning authorities working together to ensure economic activity and infrastructure delivery is coordinated across local authority boundaries
- Both share a common objective around **sustainable economic growth** - creating the conditions for business to grow and prosper
- LEPs can compliment the statutory role of LPAs by:
 - i) providing a powerful voice of business in the planning system
 - ii) leading the production of strategic frameworks that identify/align strategic economic priorities and guide infrastructure delivery
 - iii) providing a strong business role lobbying for key infrastructure investment
 - iv) producing evidence/technical assessments to inform decision-making
 - v) facilitating decision making on strategic planning.

LEPs are already working with LPA partners on planning activities:

- **Coventry and Warwickshire** have developed a planning protocol for planning applications, and a planning for growth statement setting out the partnership's growth ambitions from a planning perspective
- **Black Country** have established a business friendly approach to planning, including a planning and development charter
- **Worcestershire** has set up a support service for companies that are working with the planning system - the business development forum
- **Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire** have developed a planning charter mark with LPAs to support businesses through the planning process

So what does Planning Reform mean for LEPs ?

- Recognises importance of LEPs as the bodies for local growth
- Gives LEPs a voice in plan making through the Duty to Co-operate
- LEPs are strategic in nature- well positioned to lead tackling economic development issues that go beyond LA boundaries- infrastructure, housing, waste etc
- Strategic planning could play an important part in underpinning Partnerships infrastructure delivery ambitions
- Number of voluntary strategic planning roles LEPs can take on working with LPAs. Choice will reflect Partnerships objectives....