

Warwick Net Zero Carbon DPD – WMS & NPPF Consultation Response

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I have read both the revised NPPF and Written Ministerial Statement. I welcome the opportunity to provide feedback. Please see below my feedback on these publications.

The revised NPPF states that "The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, including the provision of homes, commercial development, and supporting infrastructure in a sustainable manner. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

I disagree with the objective to meet the "needs" of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. We live in one of the most advanced economies in one of the wealthiest times in our planet's history. This government should aspire more than just to meet our "needs". It should aspire to meet our "wants". I propose that the objective of sustainable development should be "meeting the wants of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own wants".

I note that:

1. The Written Ministerial Statement states that the government aspires to build 300,000 homes per year. The majority of the NPPF also generally implies building more homes.
2. This country has a finite land supply which is actually a shrinking land supply because the government does not invest in complete flood defences, unlike, for example, the Netherlands, which has committed to protect its land area

The NPPF does not define what housing "needs" are. However, building 300,000 homes, with associated population growth, ad infinitum eventually means that there will not be sufficient space for anyone to live a reasonable life and therefore housing "needs" are no longer being met. Building 300,000 homes, with associated population growth, also means that eventually there will not be sufficient space to meet future generations' "wants".

Therefore, the NPPF and Written Ministerial Statement cannot be said to meet the objective to be sustainable; the NPPF and Written Ministerial Statement are internally inconsistent. The NPPF's objective, to meet "needs", is weak and insufficiently stretching. So neither the NPPF nor the Written Ministerial Statement can be used to assess the Net Zero Carbon DPD.

The Inspector should write to the government that the NPPF and Written Ministerial Statement need to be rewritten in order for any assessment of the Net Zero Carbon DPD to be made. In the meantime, without a logical, strong policy framework, Warwick District Council should not be held responsible for delivering any housing development.

It is imperative that the conclusions above are agreed. For decades now, government after government has required thousands of homes to be built without any thought for the long

term implications. Slowly, open countryside in Britain is disappearing. Plausible Office of National Statistics population projections forecast a UK population over 90 million by 2100. The whole country is likely to eventually look like Hong Kong, Tower Hamlets or Dhaka. Are you comfortable telling your children that housing development is sustainable? Do you want your grandchildren to have no choice but to live in a studio flat?

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.