



Gladman Developments Ltd

Epping Forest Local Plan Examination

Matter 2 – Context, Vision and Objectives and Sustainable Development

Issue 2: Is Policy SP1 concerning the presumption in favour of sustainable development necessary and consistent with National Policy

1. Policy SP1 is entirely consistent with National Policy as it clearly reflects the golden thread running through NPPF 2012.
2. It is important to set out, in a clear and consistent manner, the Council's overarching approach towards decision making so that it is easily understandable by all who read the Plan, in particular local residents who are unfamiliar with the planning system.
3. It is a fundamental cornerstone of the Plan led system that development, which is considered to be sustainable, should be approved without delay. This Policy clearly articulates that overall Government objective and therefore should be retained as part of the Epping Forest Local Plan.
4. Although not explicitly adding any local context, the Policy pulls together the general themes of sustainable development, contained in paragraphs 7-14 of the NPPF, into a simple and easy to follow policy which sets the context for the whole Local Plan. It provides assurance of a local approach to planning that is proactively seeking to improve the social, environmental and economic well-being of the area, confirming that the process of 'weighing up' the relevant factors in decision making will aim to strike an appropriate 'planning balance' across the three pillars of sustainability.
5. Gladman therefore support the inclusion of Policy SP1, which sets out the Local Planning Authority's commitment to making local planning decisions based on a presumption in favour of sustainable development.