PLANNING BRIEFING · 19 OCTOBER 2026

NPPF Update

Key Changes and What They Mean for Local Councils

Thank you to everyone who joined our Planning Briefing: **NPPF Update – Key Changes and What They Mean for Local Councils**, held on 19 October 2026.

We were delighted to welcome 120 attendees to this informative session led by **Mike Holmes** and **Simon Payne** of POS Enterprises, experienced town planners with many years of experience working alongside town and parish councils.

We hope the briefing helped clarify the latest changes to the **Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**, the changes to planning committee rules, and what these mean for local councils and their role in responding to planning applications.

Presentation and resources
The session was recorded, and you can now access the recording, presentation slides and additional resources using the links below:

Watch the recording

View the presentation slides

Explore further information and useful resources:

1. **National Planning Policy Framework**
2. **Planning Committees: National Scheme of Delegation**
3. **Guidance on Neighbourhood Planning in Suffolk**
4. **NALC - Neighbourhood planning**

These materials are intended to help councillors and clerks build on the discussion and apply the information to their work locally.

Q&A session clarification
During the Q&A, an attendee asked for clarification on the changes to paragraph 66(1) relating to heritage.

Although this question could not be answered during the session, Mike Holmes has since provided clarification. Please refer to Footnote 2 on page 3 of the NPPF Introduction, which explains paragraph 66(1) in further detail.

The National Planning Policy Framework does not displace the statutory obligations placed on decision-makers by virtue of, among other things, section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, sections 66 and 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, section 85(A1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and section 11(1A) of the National Parks Act 1949.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed questions. The questions raised highlighted the practical challenges facing local councils as planning policy and decision-making continue to evolve.

Our thanks also go to Mike Holmes and Simon Payne for sharing their knowledge and experience, and for providing a practical, plain-English overview of these important changes.

We hope you found the session useful and that the presentation and resources will serve as a helpful reference in the months ahead.

Thank you again for your participation. We look forward to welcoming you to another of our events soon.

The SALC Team

Suffolk Association of Local Councils
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