

**Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning &
Transport**
President: Miles Butler



**Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy,
Planning & Transport**
Hertford SG13 8DN

**EXTERNAL REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT
PLANNING GUIDANCE**

Sangeeta Sofat
Review of Planning Practice Guidance
Department for Communities and Local
Government
1/J1 Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

Contact: Huw Jones
Tel: 01865 815827

Date: 15th February 2013

Dear Sangeeta,

EXTERNAL REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT PLANNING GUIDANCE

The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) represents local authority Strategic Directors who manage some of the most pressing issues facing the UK today.

The expertise of ADEPT members and their vision is fundamental in the handling of issues that affect all our lives. Operating at the strategic tier of local government they are responsible for crucial transport, waste management, environment, planning, energy and economic development issues. ADEPT membership is drawn from all four corners of the United Kingdom.

ADEPT was pleased to participate in the discussions with Lord Taylor and the Practitioners Group which helped to inform the Review. It also welcomes the opportunity to comment on the recommendations of the Review.

ADEPT supports the Review recommendations and agrees that the current guidance suite is unfit for purpose. It also agrees that it is important that there is clarity from Government what Government Planning Guidance should include, and what should be excluded. The recommendation to signpost organisations providing best practice guidance is welcome. The work of ADEPT, and its research programme, highlights new, innovative and evolving best practice.

Furthermore, it agrees that immediate attention should be given to creating appropriate guidance on 'viability' and the 'duty to co-operate', particularly in relation to planning strategic infrastructure and 'strategic priorities'. A further area, which has not been highlighted by the Review, but requires attention, is the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Added to this, ADEPT would also like to make the following comments which could aid implementation of the Review recommendations:

- The recommendations should apply to 'planning guidance' prepared by all Government departments and agencies.
- The single web-based source site should incorporate all planning guidance, not solely that produced by CLG.
- Access to the site should be free-to-all.
- 'Practitioners' should be actively engaged in re-drafting/drafting guidance.
- There should be a clear and transparent process and programme for new planning guidance.
- All planning guidance should be subject to consultation.

Finally, ADEPT is conscious that a number of actions are needed to implement the recommendations of the Review and move forward, especially to the timetable set out. ADEPT would welcome the opportunity to work with Lord Taylor on the next stages of the Review and its implementation.

Should you wish to take up this offer, or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Jones', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Huw Jones
Chair, ADEPT Growth & Regeneration Board

cc. ADEPT Management Board
ADEPT Growth & Regeneration Board