



What is Planning?

Planning is fundamental to the way our countryside, cities, towns and villages look, the way they work and the way they relate to each other. Good planning can have a hugely beneficial effect on the way we live our lives. For National Park planners, this means having a vision of how planning proposals conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the national park, and supporting local communities and businesses. This is supported by a simple, efficient and accessible planning system that meets the needs of local people, businesses and other stakeholders.

The purpose of the planning system

The Planning process is a tool for Local Planning Authorities (LPA) to establish and progress the vision for their areas as set out in their community strategies and planning policies. Planning has a key role to play in supporting and creating sustainable communities: communities that will stand the test of time, where people want to live, and which will enable people to meet their aspirations and potential.

The planning system at both a strategic and local level

At a strategic level Planning shapes the places where people live and work and the country we live in. It plays a key role in supporting the government's wider social, environmental and economic objectives.

At a local level Planning enables the control of development. Each LPA is responsible for deciding whether development, anything from an extension on a house to a new shopping centre, should go ahead. Planning has become increasingly important in recent years as it has been recognised that the function is integral to the role of the LPA as a 'place shaper' for their area. As part of this, all Members have a vital role in championing the interests of their constituents and ensuring that the delivery of planning decisions is open, effective and accountable.

Further information

For more information about Planning and the National Planning Policy Framework and the associated guidance please visit:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#)

[Planning Portal – guidance and legislation](#)