

## **Delivering Sustainable Development**

The Government expects the planning system to actively encourage growth, giving local people the opportunity to shape communities, whilst providing sufficient housing to meet local need and support economic activity. This approach is entirely consistent with the Council's vision and aspirations for Coventry. In this context, it is important that the planning system does everything possible to support economic growth and sustainable development.

The NPPF sets out the presumption in favour of sustainable development and the need for sustainable economic growth. It is also now widely recognised that Local Plans should reflect this presumption within their own policy base to promote sustainable development at the local level.

### **Policy DS3: Sustainable Development Policy**

1. When considering development proposals, the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. It will work proactively with applicants to find solutions to enable proposals to be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area, including:
  - a) access to a variety of high-quality green and blue infrastructure;
  - b) access to job opportunities;
  - c) use of low carbon, renewable and energy efficient technologies;
  - d) the creation of mixed sustainable communities through a variety of dwelling types, sizes, tenures and range of community facilities
  - e) increased health, wellbeing and quality of life;
  - f) measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change;
  - g) access to sustainable modes of transport;
  - h) preservation and enhancement of the historic environment; and
  - i) sustainable waste management.
2. Planning applications that accord with the policies in the Coventry Local Plan (and, where relevant, with policies in supporting plans) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

3. Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

4. This will take into account:

- a) Any adverse impacts of granting permission that would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework taken as a whole; or
- b) Specific policies in that Framework that indicate that development should be restricted.