

POLICY LP1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 1. When considering development proposals the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. It will always work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the Borough.**
- 2. Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Local Plan will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.**
- 3. Where there are no policies relevant to the application or where relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the Council will grant planning permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise, taking into account whether:**
 - a) any adverse impacts of granting planning permission 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 indicate that development should be restricted.**

EXPLANATION OF POLICY LP1

- 5.2 The Borough Council's overall approach to development is a presumption in favour of development which accords with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Policy LP1 sets out how the Borough Council will determine planning applications to achieve sustainable development in relation to national and local policies. The NPPF states there are specific policies which indicate development should be restricted and these include those policies relating to sites protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives and/or designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, designated heritage assets and locations at risk of flooding. The rest of the policies in the Local Plan have been written within this overarching policy context.

INFRASTRUCTURE

5.3 New development will normally need a number of different infrastructure requirements to support it. Phased delivery of strategic and local infrastructure is a key component of implementing the Local Plan proposals. Such infrastructure provision includes (but is not exclusive to) transport, water supply, waste water treatment, flood defences, public utilities, health, education, recreation and social facilities.

5.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that Local Plans should plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the NPPF. Local authorities are required to work with other authorities and providers to assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure and take account of the need for strategic infrastructure including nationally significant infrastructure within their areas.

Local Context

5.5 To accord with the principles of sustainability, this Local Plan proposes that growth within Gosport is located within existing urban areas, and is not reliant on major new Greenfield sites that are dependent on the provision of completely new infrastructure. Growth within Gosport is therefore more dependent on the general provision of infrastructure keeping pace with development. This, however, makes determining the necessary infrastructure a more complex undertaking requiring an understanding of existing provision and whether there are any deficits.

5.6 In order to meet the Local Plan objectives and create a genuine sustainable community the provision of good infrastructure in the right location at the right time is essential for the well-being of local residents and ensures that the area will be attractive for businesses and visitors. The role of the Local Plan is therefore to help maintain existing infrastructure and enable new infrastructure to be developed. This can be achieved by ensuring that the Borough Council works in partnership with a range of key stakeholders including developers, infrastructure providers and the local community.

5.7 The key requirement regarding infrastructure provision therefore relates to how, when, and where the necessary infrastructure is provided and by who. Details of the known requirements at present are contained within the Council's Infrastructure Assessment Report and Infrastructure Delivery Plan⁴⁷.

5.8 The Borough Council's assessment of infrastructure requirements will be regularly reviewed over the plan period as inevitably infrastructure demands will emerge that have not been identified at the present time. There may also be difficulties of delivering certain elements of infrastructure which may need to be reviewed.

⁴⁷ www.gosport.gov.uk/localplan2029-evidencestudies