

Reforming the Planning System in England

Planning for Growth – What can we learn from Europe?
ESPON - Interstrat Conference
30 September 2011


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The Coalition:
our programme
for government

 HM Government

Coalition Agreement

“Publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities”.

 HM TREASURY

 BIS
Department for Business
Innovation & Skills

The Plan for Growth

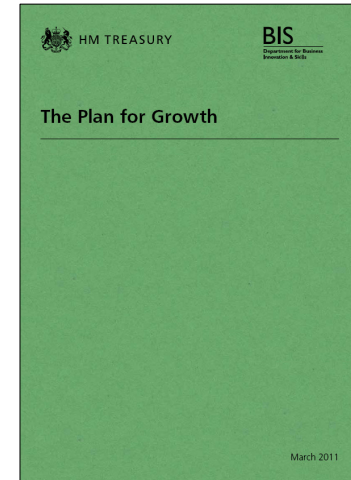
March 2011

Growth Review

“Produce a shorter, more focused and inherently pro-growth National Planning Policy Framework to deliver more development in suitable and viable locations”

The Growth Review and Planning

- Launched on 29 November 2010.
- Rolling programme over the term of Parliament, with a first report in Budget 2011.
- Intended to be a “*fundamental assessment of what each part of Government is doing to provide the conditions for private sector success and address the barriers faced by industry*”
- DCLG contributing to a number of strands ... regulation, competition, construction and retail work streams and leading the planning work stream.
- Building on the strong principles of the Localism Bill and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).



i) streamline national planning policy –
making it more accessible

ii) promote sustainable development

iii) protect and enhance the natural and historic
environment



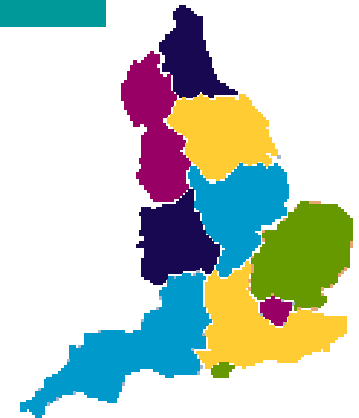
National Planning Policy Framework

Delivering sustainable development

- For the planning system, sustainable development means:
 - Planning for prosperity (an economic role)
 - Planning for people (a social role)
 - Planning for places (an environmental role)
- Three components should be pursued in an integrated way, looking for solutions that deliver multiple goals
- Plan-led system: presumption in favour of **sustainable development** unless the adverse impacts of allowing development would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits.

“There will always be some elements of planning, in particular the provision of various types of infrastructure that support development, that will require some, form of co-operation between adjoining local authorities” (Open Source Planning, Feb 2010)

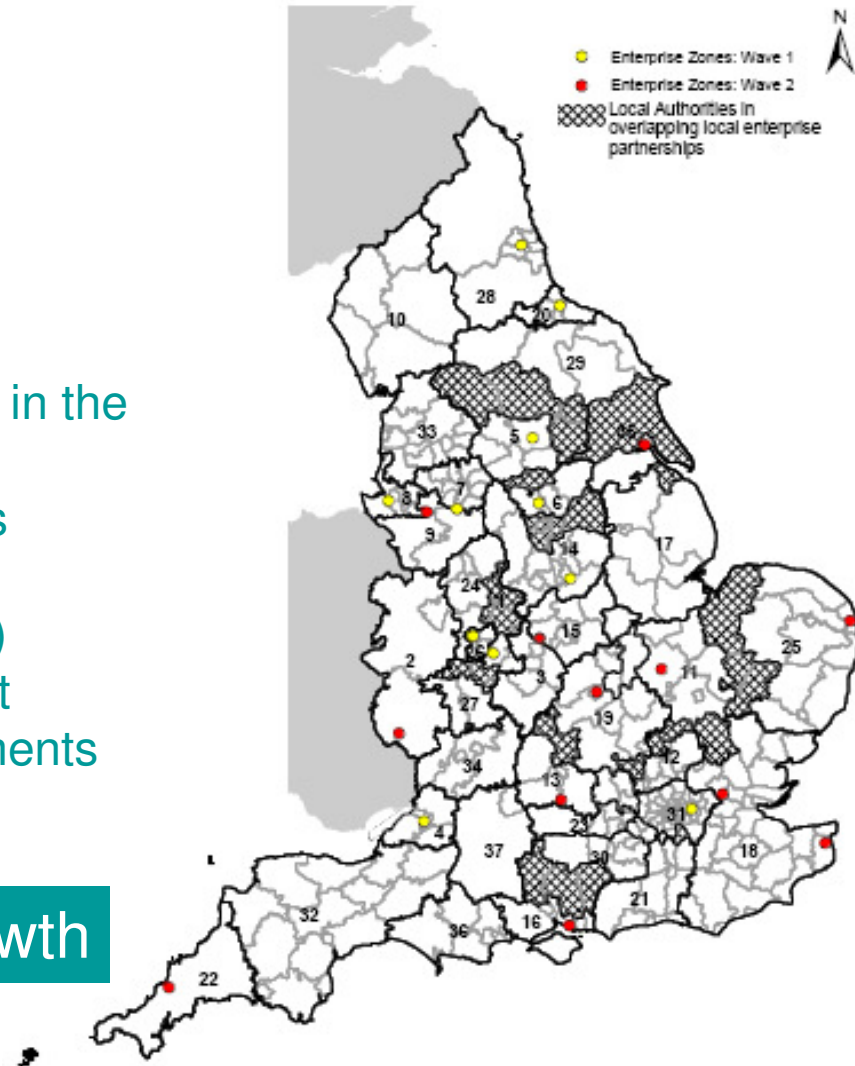
- Moving from ‘regions’ to a more **functional geography** – an issue across Europe
- For local planning authorities and their partners to decide when and how to work together and what outcomes they are seeking
- Role for Local Enterprise Partnerships



Local Enterprise Partnerships

- No prescribed role.
- Working with Local Authorities
- Work may include coordinating:
 - economic activity
 - infrastructure delivery
- provide a powerful voice of business in the planning system
- lead the production of strategic plans (identify and align strategic economic priorities, guide infrastructure delivery)
- lobbying for infrastructure investment
- produce evidence/technical assessments

Enterprise Zones: delivering growth



Neighbourhood Planning

- Part of Statutory Development Plan
- Neighbourhood plans can go beyond local authority policies on development
- Regard to national policy (e.g. NPPF) and guidance
- General conformity with ‘strategic policies and proposals’ in local plan
- Compatible with EU and ECHR obligations



Planning Simplification Package

- Permitted development: householder, small scale renewables, commercial and agricultural buildings
- Review of Use Classes Order: making it easier to bring premises back into use
- Planning Guarantee: making sure that the customer gets a good service
- Planning Consents: aligning processes for planning and related consents
- Planning Conditions: enabling development to proceed



Planning for Growth: What can we learn from Europe?

- New approach to planning: less prescriptive, greater cooperation, emphasis on sustainable growth
- Evidence and information – possible role for ESPON
 - CAEE: Agglomeration Economies (Manchester)
 - RISE: Identifying and Exchanging Best Practices in Developing Regional Integrated Strategies in Europe (Birmingham)
- Places across Europe facing similar issues
- Sharing best practice and intelligence, benchmarking to help deliver growth
- Influencing Europe

