



amphibian and reptile conservation 

we are cycling  
The cyclists' champion UK

ALERC  
Association of Local Environmental Records Centres 

 Friends of the Earth



Bat Conservation Trust  
www.bats.org.uk 

 The countryside charity

tcpa

Wildlife and Countryside LINK 

UK GBC  
Together for a better built environment

The Heritage Alliance



 ramblers  
at the heart of walking

 WOODLAND TRUST

 giving nature a home  
England

green alliance...

Open Spaces Society

 Campaign for National Parks  
Keeping beautiful places safe

# OUR VISION FOR PLANNING

JANUARY 2021

# Our planning system is the toolbox for thriving communities.

It has vast potential to deliver positive outcomes for people, nature and our economy, supporting the delivery of new homes in order to solve the housing crisis.

A broad range of housing, planning, transport, environmental, heritage, built environment and public health organisations have come together to set out a shared vision for planning and our suggestions for how the government can maximise the fantastic potential of planning.

We believe our planning system should implement existing legal commitments to environmental protection and addressing climate change.

## Our planning system should:

### 1. Be democratic and place local communities at the centre

This means communities having a legally guaranteed say on specific planning projects, as well as involving them in the wider planning of their areas.

### 2. Be plan-led and locally-led

This means central government supporting local authorities to ensure they have the resources and tools to keep an up-to-date local plan in place.

### 3. Have sustainable development at its heart

This means introducing legislation that ensures the planning system delivers equally on economic, social and environmental aims.

#### **4. Deliver enough quality affordable and social homes for rent to meet local needs**

This means improving Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy to ensure that all developments provide the right amount of affordable and social homes.

#### **5. Tackle the biodiversity crisis**

This means better protecting species and our most important habitats, with no reduction in the current level of protection, and positively supporting nature's recovery from freefall decline by identifying new Highly Protected Areas and Nature Recovery Areas and strategically planning 'nature recovery areas'.

#### **6. Help tackle the climate emergency**

This means ensuring all new homes are built to zero carbon standards as soon as possible, encouraging the use and repair of existing buildings; and by 2030 at the latest, embracing nature-based solutions to enhance climate resilience and developing similar standards for all building types.

#### **7. Ensure beautiful, quality places that are in keeping with local character**

This means appointing Design Ambassadors at local authority level to champion good, holistic, sustainable design and, revoking permitted development rights that have led to poor quality conversions to housing.

#### **8. Both protect and enhance local green spaces and heritage for the benefit of people and nature**

This means ensuring ring-fenced funding, which will secure good quality natural spaces close to people's homes.

#### **9. Make best use of previously built on land to maintain our green spaces and reduce dependency on cars**

This means building on brownfield land where it is not important for biodiversity conservation, and without damaging heritage value.

#### **10. Encourage green and sustainable forms of transport**

This means amending planning guidance so that it adequately promotes a shift towards walking, cycling and green public transport as the main forms of transport.

#### **11. Be evidence-based**

This means using high quality and accurate data that is fit for purpose, including on meeting community needs and assessing environmental impact to underpin plans and decisions in line with agreed international commitments.

For further information, or to discuss this joint 'Vision for planning',  
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