



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director of Place

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	28 February 2023
Subject:	Planning Reform and Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB)

Summary:

This report provides a summary of proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the planning system contained in the LURB, and likely implications for Lincolnshire.

Actions Required:

The committee is asked to note and provide comment on the contents of the report.

1. Background

The LURB has been a long time in the making since planning reform was first announced in the Planning for the Future White Paper published in August 2020. This resulted in 44,000 responses to the consultation, reflecting the controversial contents of the document. The government has now decided not to make a specific response. There is much to recommend what is proposed in the LURB. Of more significance is what has been omitted from the White Paper.

Recent turbulence in government ministerial appointments has resulted in unexpected shifts in planning policy (NPPF) which are currently under consultation (ending 2 March 2023). This review is interim and partial with a more comprehensive update expected later in the year. From a Lincolnshire perspective the main points of interest are:

- References to the standard method of calculating housing supply as only an 'advisory starting point'
- Allowing a more permissive approach to the delivery of onshore wind farms
- Express references to the needs for retirement housing, housing with care and care homes

- The inclusion of the line: "The availability of agricultural land used for food production should be considered, alongside the other policies in this Framework, when deciding what sites are most appropriate for development"

There is currently debate regarding the ability of central government to override Local Plan policies using more interventionist national policies. Appendix A provides a detailed assessment of the potential impact of the LURB and NPPF in Lincolnshire, especially in areas of plan making and infrastructure delivery.

The timetable for enactment of the Bill was delayed after several proposed amendments. It was at the House of Lords committee stage on 20 February 2023.

2. Conclusion

Overall, there has been a slight tilting of power away from developers to local authorities and their communities, subject to further proposals to be announced in detailed regulations'

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Risk and impacts included in the report

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Appendix A: Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill and NPPF

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Phil Hughes, who can be contacted on 01673866224 or phil.hughes@lincolnshire.gov.uk.