

ANDY BURNHAM

**MAYOR OF
GREATER
MANCHESTER**

Rt. Hon Michael Gove
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Via email

9th November 2023

Ref: AB/AM

Dear Michael,

Now that the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill has received Royal Assent, the government has indicated that the publication of a revised National Planning Policy Framework will follow shortly, notwithstanding that the government has not yet published their response to the consultation.

As you will be aware, the Places for Everyone plan (PfE) is nearing adoption. We are currently consulting on main modifications and are hopeful that the plan will be adopted early in the New Year. This will mean that 9 of our 10 local authorities will have an up-to-date local plan which is fundamental to the delivery of sustainable and inclusive economic growth, meeting housing need, aligning with our transport strategy and intrinsically linked to our Devolution Trailblazer.

Given the position we have reached, it is essential that any changes to national planning legislation and policy is accompanied by suitable transitional arrangements, a point we made in our response to the consultation on LURB and NPPF earlier this year. The transitional arrangements should make it clear that plans which have reached Reg 19 stage and/or Submission stage should be examined under the planning policy framework within which they were prepared. To not do so would cause delay and confusion and would result in further work needing to be prepared. In all likelihood a lack of transitional arrangements would signal the end of the PfE joint plan, and the 9 local authorities would be looking at preparing local plans under the 'new' system, which does not commence until the end of 2024, leading to a significant delay, increasing opportunities for 'planning by appeal' and threatening the delivery of our ambitions for economic and housing growth.

I would welcome any detail you can provide on the timescale for the publication of the revised NPPF and your reassurance that transitional arrangements will apply to any new legislation and policy, as is normal practice. I would be happy to discuss this with you if you would find that helpful.

Andy Burnham

Andy Burnham
Mayor of Greater Manchester

GMCA, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

BOLTON	MANCHESTER	ROCHDALE	STOCKPORT	TRAFFORD
BURY	OLDHAM	SALFORD	TAMESIDE	WIGAN



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Minister for Intergovernmental Relations

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Andy Burnham
Mayor of Greater Manchester
Broadhurst House
56 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6EU

Your reference: AB/AM

Our reference: MC2023/03091

Dear Andy,

MHG December 2023

Thank you for your letter of 9 November in relation to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) update, and potential impacts on the progress of your emerging Places for Everyone plan. As you know, due to my quasi-judicial role in the planning system, I am unable to comment on individual plans. I can provide the following general comments, which I hope you find helpful.

I recognise the importance of the emerging Places for Everyone joint plan in driving forward regional growth ambitions, which remains central to the Devolution Trailblazer. I am grateful for the work by and dedication of the authorities involved, and I recognise that it has not always been a straightforward process to get the plan to this stage.

This Government is dedicated to a plan-led system, as you are aware, so I am pleased to see continued progress – most recently in taking forward the main modification consultation. This is an essential step in ensuring housing requirements are planned for appropriately and in line with local need, whilst making the best use of land and creating well-designed and attractive places to live.

As you know, the consultation for the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was launched on 22 December 2022 and ran until 2 March. A consultation of this scale and complexity takes considerable time and policy work, although I do appreciate the impact such a consultation has on plan-making. I expect to publish a response to the consultation shortly and appreciate your patience as we consider the comments received.

I acknowledge the points you have raised in relation to transitional arrangements in the forthcoming NPPF, and we are working to ensure our reforms provide both clarity and certainty to the sector for Plans at different stages of the plan-making process. The details concerning transitional arrangements are still under consideration and will be outlined as part of the NPPF update. You will appreciate that it is difficult for me to say more at this stage.

I hope that the nine Greater Manchester authorities continue to progress the joint plan towards adoption. Thank you again for your letter.

Yours, as ever,
Michael

RT HON MICHAEL GOVE MP

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Minister for Intergovernmental Relations