

London Forum E-bulletin

'Planning for the Future'

Further to the earlier [update](#) on planning changes, much of which is still relevant, on 6th August 2020 the Government published a [consultation](#) on reform of the planning system in England with a closing date of 29th October 2020. It introduces three new categories of land for development and applies different decision criteria for each of them on planning applications.

Another [consultation](#) to 1st October covers changes to the standard method for assessing local housing need, securing of 'First Homes' through developer contributions in the short term until the transition to a new system, supporting small and medium-sized builders by temporarily lifting the small sites threshold below which developers do not need to contribute to affordable housing and extending the current Permission in Principle to major development.

A [third consultation](#) to 30th October 2020 is a call for evidence on the Government's proposals to improve the transparency of contractual mechanisms, such as land options, to exercise control over land.

Civic and community groups are asked to study the documents and let London Forum have comments for use in its responses.

High Streets

Our meeting on High Streets attracted lively interest. There are suggested actions societies could take now to influence the future of their centres in the [summary here](#). Also, the Government is changing from September the Use Classes in town centres and elsewhere which could restrict the ability of communities and their Councils to control what happens to premises in high streets and district centres. See [here](#).

Best wishes,

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