

Strategic Planning Update

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National Planning Forum
26 June 2019

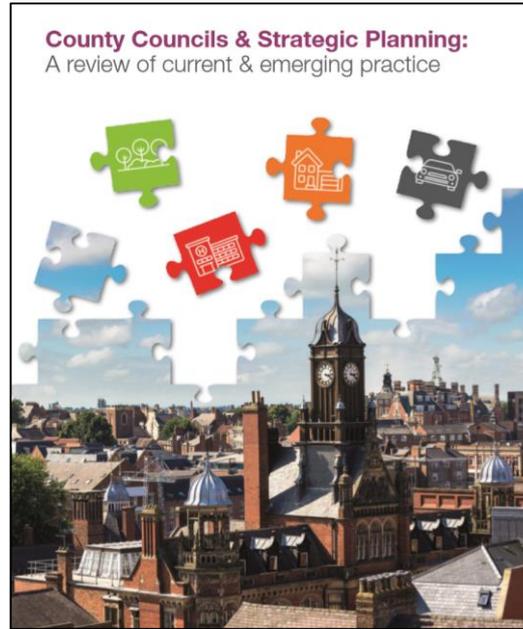


Strategic planning – finding our way back



"...we would like to see more and more local authorities working together to produce a strategic plan over a wider area on the functional economic geography that is right for their part of the world..."

February 2017



"With the significance of the growth agenda across the country, it is now more important than ever to properly join up housing and infrastructure, to ensure that we build communities and not just homes; after all they are two pieces of the same jigsaw. Changes also need to be made to secure new funding mechanisms to ensure that we can provide infrastructure to match both housing and economic growth."

June 2018



"Our general thrust is for groups of local authorities to come together to form a kind of strategic partnership and vision for a particular region or area, fundamentally so that we can fund the infrastructure that's related to it."

September 2018

"Strategic, long term planning has to return."

June 2019

Strategic planning 2019 – the context

Overall Government priority:
**increase housing delivery to 300k
per annum**



Quicker and more effective plan-making

Speed up delivery
of local plans
(e.g. intervention, use of
planning 'freedoms &
flexibilities', HDT, standard
methodology)

**More effective
strategic planning**



- Stronger emphasis on **joint planning** in NPPF
- Duty to Cooperate strengthened through **Statement of Common Ground** and **new tests of soundness** to ensure DtC is 'duty to agree'
- **Strategic Infrastructure Tariff** to be introduced - but (currently) can only be levied by combined authorities or through statutory joint local plan committee
- Increasing number of **housing and growth deals** with more effective joint planning a key part e.g. Oxfordshire 2050 Plan
- **Fiscal incentives** offered for more effective strategic planning through government infrastructure & capacity funding.
- Strategic planning **key factor in government agency priorities** e.g. Highways/ Homes England.
- Strategic approach to transport beginning to emerge **through Sub-national Transport Bodies (STBs)**
- Strong influence beginning to emerge from **Local Industrial Strategies** that will set out 20 year strategies, including some spatial priorities
- **National spatial priorities** begin to emerge from Government e.g. Oxford Cambridge Arc, Thames Estuary, Northern Powerhouse

Strategic planning 2019

Statutory Joint Strategic Plans (statutory)

1. Greater Exeter Strategic Plan*
2. Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Spatial Plan*
3. South Essex Joint Strategic Plan*
4. South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan*
5. West of England Joint Spatial Plan*



Spatial Development Strategies (statutory)**

6. Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy*
7. The London Plan



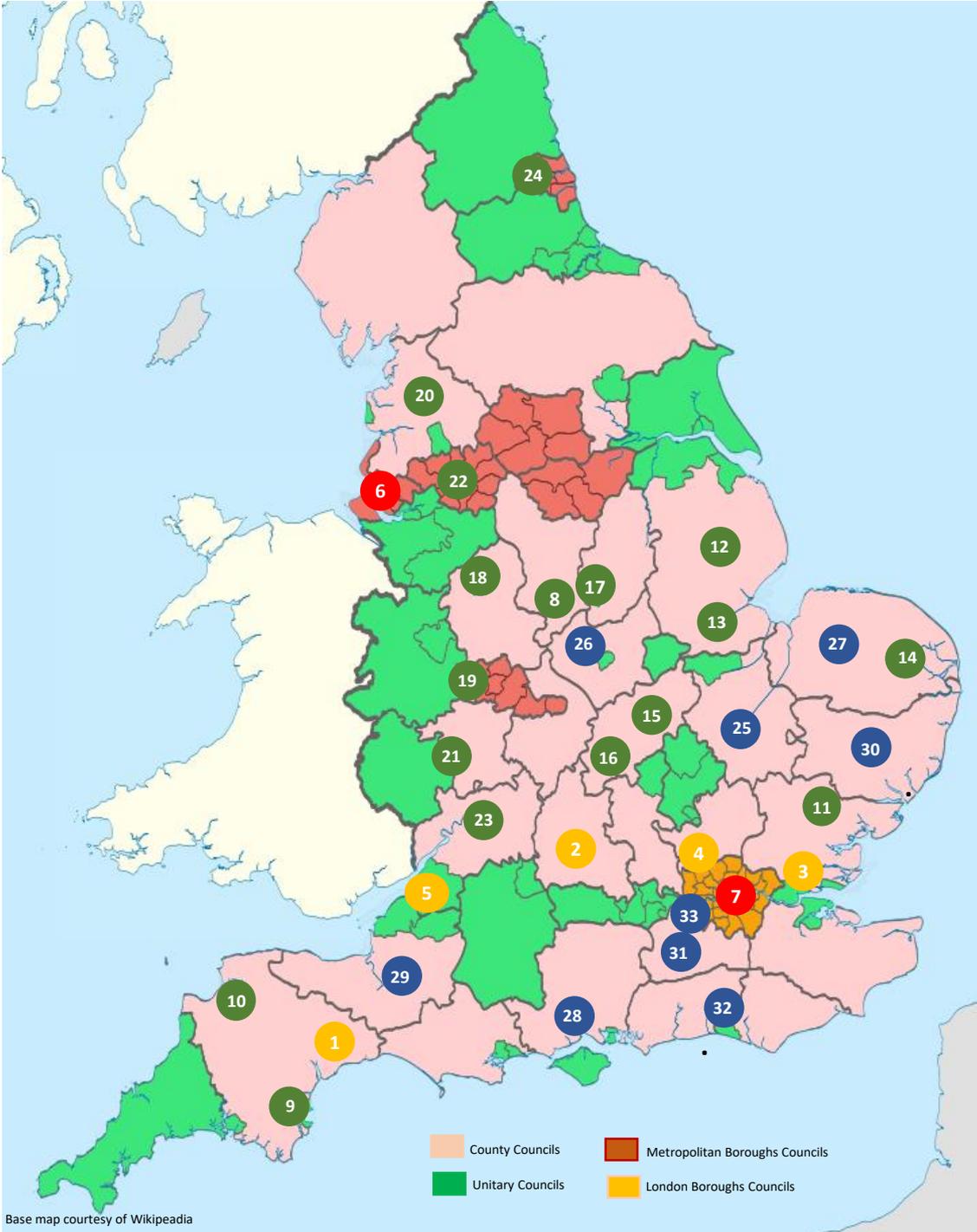
Joint LPs and Joint/Aligned Strategies (statutory)***

8. Greater Derby Aligned Core Strategies
9. Plymouth and SW Devon Joint Local Plan*
10. North Devon & Torridge Joint Local Plan*
11. North Essex Aligned Strategies*
12. Central Lincolnshire Joint Local plan
13. South East Lincolnshire Joint Local Plan
14. Greater Norwich Joint Local Plan
15. North Northants Joint Core Strategy
16. West Northants Joint Core Strategy
17. Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategies
18. Newcastle Upon Lyme & Stoke Joint Local Plan*
19. Black Country Joint Core Strategy
20. Central Lancashire Joint Local Plan*
21. Gloucester, Tewksbury & Cheltenham Joint Core Strategy
22. Greater Manchester Spatial Framework*
23. South Worcestershire Development Plan
24. Newcastle and Gateshead Core Strategy



Strategic planning and/ or Growth Frameworks (non-statutory)

25. Cambridge & Peterborough CA Spatial Framework*
26. Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan
27. Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework
28. PUSH Spatial Position Statement
29. Somerset Growth Plan
30. Suffolk Strategic Planning & Infrastructure Framework
31. Surrey 2050 Place Ambition*
32. West Sussex & Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement
33. Heathrow Strategic Planning Framework*



Base map courtesy of Wikipedia

*Emerging plans/ frameworks

** subject to their own defined legislation & Regulations i.e. not development plan documents

***Does not include all joint local plans – only those considered be strategic in nature

The different approaches to strategic planning

- **Joint Strategic Plans and CA Spatial Development Strategies (statutory)**
 - JSP are S28 plans but no joint statutory (S29) governance
 - longer term visions (2050)
 - Cover larger area than joint local plans – “boundary-off”
 - focused on key strategic policies (particularly overall housing target, strategic infrastructure, spatial reflection of LIS)
 - identification of priority development locations (but no site allocations) & set general extent of Green Belt (where applicable) making case for exceptional circumstances but don't define GB boundaries
- **Joint Local Plans (statutory)**
 - Full, detailed local plans prepared jointly with adjoining areas
 - Generally only 2-3 LPAs involved
 - County councils equal partner in many where S29 joint committee being used
- **Growth frameworks/ place ambitions (non-statutory)**
 - Long term growth strategies or statements of intent
 - Usually cover wider range of issues than spatial priorities
 - Much quicker to prepare and therefore move into delivery stage
 - Set the context/ overarching strategy for statutory plans (and other plans and strategies)

Strategic planning 2019 – Key Issues

Place-based v housing numbers - Move away from 'planning by numbers' to place-based approach (boundary blind).

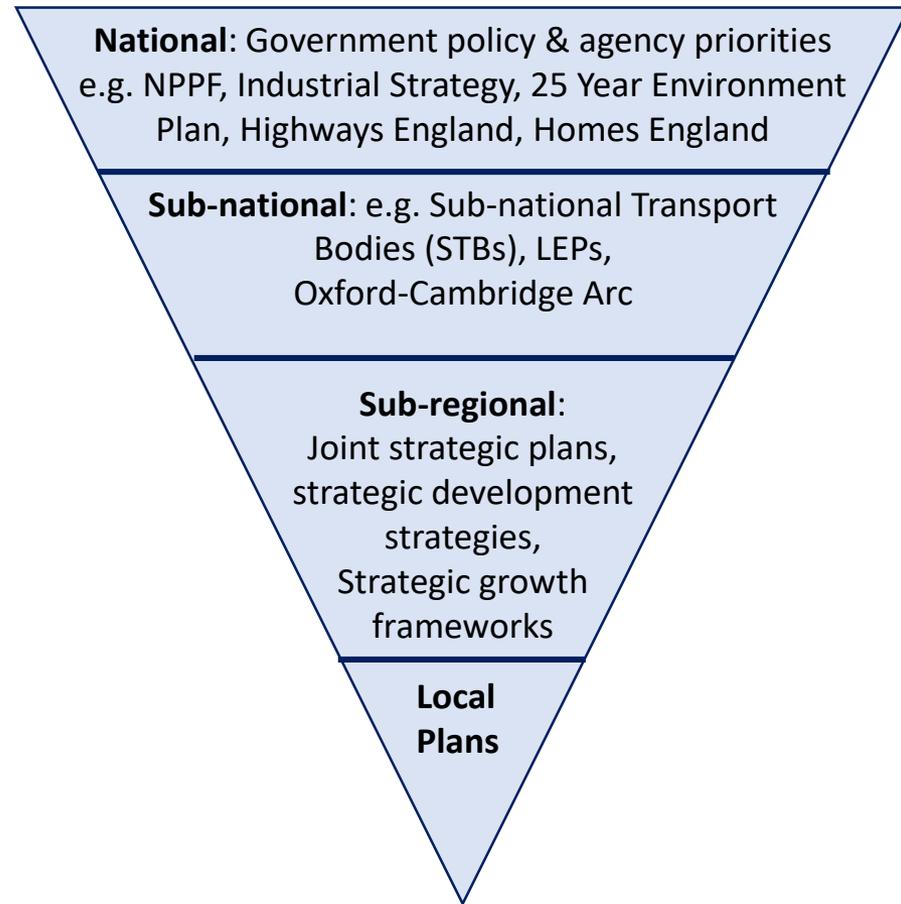
"You can talk about numbers, but there has to be more than that. It has to be, for me, about building homes and communities....spaces that people want to live in, that have a sense of connection and identity."

James Brokenshire, May 2019

Alignment in strategic investment priorities – Alignment (vertical and horizontal) between spatial, economic and infrastructure priorities still challenging and too fragmented (especially in 2-tier areas) with increasing number of bodies involved in 'place agenda'.

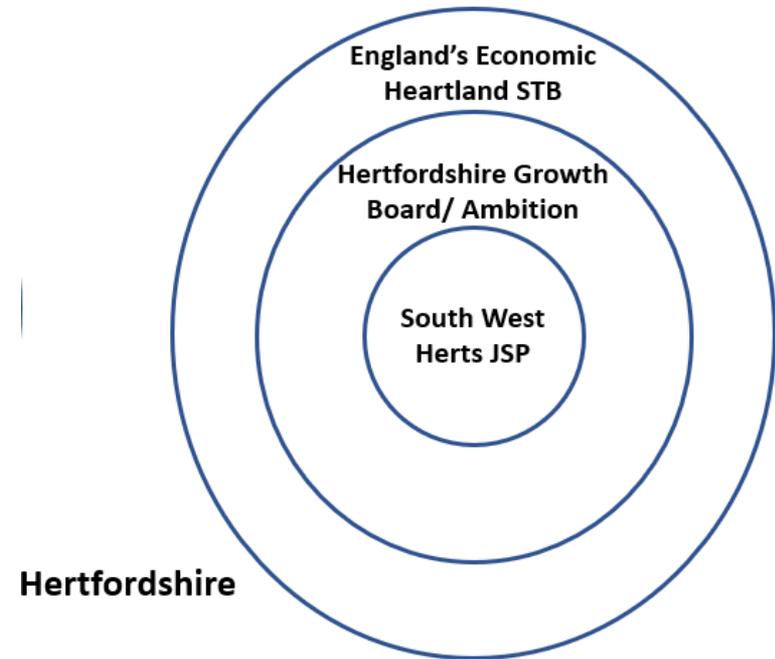
"To create new homes and places for people to live, infrastructure such as transport, healthcare, schools and utilities must be in place, but this is difficult as government departments are not required to tie their investment strategies with local authorities' infrastructure plans, creating uncertainty about how some infrastructure will be funded."

National Audit Office, February 2019



Strategic planning 2019 – Key Issues

- **Statutory v non-statutory** – Will depend on what you want to get out of the process e.g. statutory JSP a prerequisite for Oxfordshire style housing and growth deal but statutory will provide more investor confidence (incl Government). However, much more flexibility to integrate other agendas properly and deliver quickly with non-statutory, and counties have equal status in 2-tier areas.
- **Strategic geography** – strategic planning geography often managed at different spatial levels (e.g. city-region-LEP-STB). Difficult to manage joint plans on very large scale but do need to align boundaries.
- **Place leadership** – Key driver is stronger collective leadership to influence priorities of others and access funding but sensitivities around shared governance remain in many parts of the country, particularly in 2-tier areas – LGR also beginning to impact.
- **Skills and capacity** – Need to rethink what is needed in terms of skills and expertise and access these in different ways – softer, traditional strategic planning / relationship management skills just as important (if not more) than technical skills.



Thank you!

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