

DESIGN, QUALITY AND PLACE

Draft NPF 4 supports high quality design as a means of enhancing our environment, and creating a sense of place.

Development proposals should:

- be designed to a high quality and the scale and nature of the development should contribute positively to the character and sense of place of their surroundings;
- incorporate the key principles of Designing Streets, Creating Places, New Design in Historic Settings and any other local authority design guidance;
- demonstrate how the six qualities of successful places have been incorporated into the design so that it contributes positively to the character and quality of the surrounding area;
- not be supported if they are poorly designed, particularly if they are inconsistent with the Six Qualities of Successful Places;
- should not be supported if they are detrimental to the character or appearance of the surrounding area, taking account of impacts on daylight, sunlight, noise, air quality and privacy.

Responses to the Position Statement

There was support for a focus on achieving high quality design. Some respondents made the point that design should be seen as a fundamental part of the planning process, because of its impact on other policy areas.

Policy changes

The proposals in Draft NPF4 build on the principle expressed in SPP that planning should help create high quality places by taking a design-led approach that responds to and enhances the existing place. The principles expressed in Draft NPF4 expand on that approach by ensuring that developers consider their development in the context of its surroundings and the guidance expressed in Designing Streets and other guidance. It gives direct support to planning authorities not to support poorly designed developments that would not contribute positively to the area.