



12 July 2017

## The Chief Planning Officer

This letter is to remind local planning authorities of the important role the planning system plays in ensuring appropriate measures are in place in relation to counter-terrorist and crime prevention security.

Both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) set out guidance in creating safe and accessible communities. In particular, I would draw your attention to the following: paragraphs 58 and 69 of the NPPF recommend that local planning authorities ensure their policies and decisions aim to create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Paragraph 164 advises that when preparing their Local Plan, local authorities should work with local advisors and others to ensure that they have taken into account the most up-to-date information about higher risk sites in their area for malicious threats and natural hazards, including steps that can be taken to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience. The Design section of the PPG includes crime prevention and security measures.

Links to the above guidance are contained in Annex A to this letter. Reference should also be made to the guidance: "Protecting crowded places: design and technical issues".

The NPPF recognises that local planning authorities have a key role to play in encouraging other parties to take maximum advantage of the pre-application stage, as this can help ensure high quality schemes that best deliver all parties priorities. For instance, and where appropriate, pre-application discussions between planning officers and security advisors, such as Counter Terrorism Security Advisors and police Crime Prevention Design Advisors, will ensure that authorities and applicants share an understanding, right at the beginning of the design process, of the level of risk and the sort of measures available to mitigate the risk in a proportionate and well-designed manner. Pre-application engagement can also explore whether some measures needed to enhance safety and security may be achieved using permitted development rights.

Permitted Development rights allow for a range of works which can aid security to be undertaken without the need to submit a planning application. The rights are set at a level appropriate for a national grant of planning permission. They do not preclude planning permission being sought for works that go beyond and which may be necessary to deal with local circumstances.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Quartermain', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Steve Quartermain CBE**  
**Chief Planner**

## Annex A

NPPF: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>

NPPF: paragraph 58 (requiring good design)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/7-requiring-good-design>

NPPF: paragraph 69 (promoting healthy communities)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-communities>

NPPF: paragraph 164 (Defence, national security, counter-terrorism and resilience)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/plan-making>

PPG: paragraphs 10 and 11 specifically address crime prevention and security measures

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/design>

Home Office, CPNI, and NaCTSO: Guidance - protecting crowded places: design and technical issues

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-crowded-places-design-and-technical-issues>