

The Chief Planning Officer,
Local planning authorities in England

30 March 2009

Dear Chief Planning Officer,

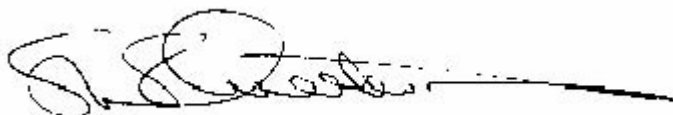
New Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009 and cancellation of obsolete planning documents

I am writing to let you know that Communities and Local Government is publishing a new Circular, 02/09 on 30 March 2009, to which the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009 is appended. This direction will come into force on 20 April 2009, and will apply to all applications for planning permission relating to land in England received on or after that date. It sets out the types of development on which local planning authorities in England will be required to consult the Secretary of State before granting planning permission. Copies of the circular and direction are being sent to all Chief Planning Officers in England, and can also be accessed on the Communities and Local Government website, www.communities.gov.uk.

With effect from 20 April 2009, the guidance contained in that circular and annexed direction will replace the provisions of the directions listed in **Annex A**, which will be cancelled insofar as they apply in relation to England:

At the same time, Communities and Local Government is cancelling a number of other planning circulars and other guidance documents which have become obsolete but have never been formally withdrawn. These are listed in **Annex B**. These documents will also be cancelled with effect from 20 April 2009. The cancellations are part of a range of actions we are taking to streamline the planning framework. The combined effect of the cancellations listed in this letter will be to reduce the number of planning circulars by almost a fifth.

Yours sincerely,



STEVE QUARTERMAIN
Chief Planner

ANNEX A

Type	No.	Title	Reason for cancellation
Circular	15/93	Town and Country Planning (Shopping Development) England and Wales) No 2) Direction 1993	
Circular	09/98	Town & Country Planning (Playing Fields) (England) Direction 1998	All being replaced by Communities and Local Government Circular 02/09
Circular	07/99	The Town and Country Planning (Development Plans and Consultation) (Departures) Directions 1999	
Circular	11/05	The Town and Country Planning (Green Belt) Direction 2005	
Circular	04/06	The Town and Country Planning (Flooding) England) Direction 2007	

ANNEX B

Type	No.	Title	Reason for cancellation
Circular	67/68	Town and Country Planning Act 1968 Planning Inquiry Commission	This Circular is no longer needed as it relates to the Planning Inquiry Commission which has been replaced by the new Infrastructure Planning Commission.
Circular	73/77	Guidelines for Regional Recreational Strategies	The Circular provides guidelines for the preparation of Regional Recreational Strategies by Regional Councils for Sport and Recreation. These Regional Councils no longer exist, so the advice is no longer necessary. Current guidance is provided in PPG17 'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation'.
Circular	15/90	Development Plans	This Circular explained the consolidation of the planning acts in 1990. It is now being cancelled because, whilst useful at the time, it is now largely of historic interest, and has no current practical use.
Circular	04/96	Local Government Act 1992 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990: Local Government Change and the Planning System	This Circular provides advice on an earlier round of local government reorganisation and how it related to the planning system in 1990, and it refers to the previous planning legislation. Current legislation now sets out the principles by which new unitary authorities take on planning functions from previous districts and counties, so there is no need for a circular to do this.
Guidance Document	(1999)	Local Plans and Unitary Development Plans: A Guide to Procedures	No local plans are being progressed under the previous planning legislation, so this guidance can now be cancelled.
Guidance Document	(2002)	Making plans: good practice in plan preparation and management of the development plan process	No local plans are being progressed under the previous planning legislation, so this guidance can now be cancelled.
Circular	02/02	Planning inquiries into Major Infrastructure Projects	This obsolete DTLR Circular supported the Major Infrastructure Project Inquiries Procedure Rules of 2002, since revoked and replaced by the 2005 Rules. The current Circular is 07/05, <i>Planning Inquiries into Major Infrastructure Projects Procedures</i> .