



Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

2004 CHAPTER 5

PART 2

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Documents

20 Independent examination

- (1) The local planning authority must submit every development plan document to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
- (2) But the authority must not submit such a document unless—
 - (a) they have complied with any relevant requirements contained in regulations under this Part, and
 - (b) they think the document is ready for independent examination.
- (3) The authority must also send to the Secretary of State (in addition to the development plan document) such other documents (or copies of documents) and such information as is prescribed.
- (4) The examination must be carried out by a person appointed by the Secretary of State.
- (5) The purpose of an independent examination is to determine in respect of the development plan document—
 - (a) whether it satisfies the requirements of sections 19 and 24(1), regulations under section 17(7) and any regulations under section 36 relating to the preparation of development plan documents;
 - (b) whether it is sound.^[F1]; and
 - (c) whether the local planning authority complied with any duty imposed on the authority by section 33A in relation to its preparation.]

Changes to legislation: Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Section 20 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 November 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

(6) Any person who makes representations seeking to change a development plan document must (if he so requests) be given the opportunity to appear before and be heard by the person carrying out the examination.

[^{F2}(6A) The Secretary of State may by notice to the person appointed to carry out the examination—

- (a) direct the person not to take any step, or any further step, in connection with the examination of the development plan document, or of a specified part of it, until a specified time or until the direction is withdrawn;
- (b) require the person—
 - (i) to consider any specified matters;
 - (ii) to give an opportunity, or further opportunity, to specified persons to appear before and be heard by the person;
 - (iii) to take any specified procedural step in connection with the examination.

In this subsection “specified” means specified in the notice.]

[^{F3}(7) Where the person appointed to carry out the examination—

- (a) has carried it out, and
- (b) considers that, in all the circumstances, it would be reasonable to conclude—
 - (i) that the document satisfies the requirements mentioned in subsection (5)(a) and is sound, and
 - (ii) that the local planning authority complied with any duty imposed on the authority by section 33A in relation to the document's preparation,

the person must recommend that the document is adopted and give reasons for the recommendation.

(7A) Where the person appointed to carry out the examination—

- (a) has carried it out, and
- (b) is not required by subsection (7) to recommend that the document is adopted, the person must recommend non-adoption of the document and give reasons for the recommendation.

(7B) Subsection (7C) applies where the person appointed to carry out the examination—

- (a) does not consider that, in all the circumstances, it would be reasonable to conclude that the document satisfies the requirements mentioned in subsection (5)(a) and is sound, but
- (b) does consider that, in all the circumstances, it would be reasonable to conclude that the local planning authority complied with any duty imposed on the authority by section 33A in relation to the document's preparation.

(7C) If asked to do so by the local planning authority, the person appointed to carry out the examination must recommend modifications of the document that would make it one that—

- (a) satisfies the requirements mentioned in subsection (5)(a), and
- (b) is sound.]

(8) The local planning authority must publish the recommendations and the reasons.

Changes to legislation: Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Section 20 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 November 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 20(5)(c) and word inserted (15.11.2011) by [Localism Act 2011 \(c. 20\)](#), **ss. 110(3)**, 240(5)(i) (with s. 144)
- F2** S. 20(6A) inserted (13.7.2016) by [Housing and Planning Act 2016 \(c. 22\)](#), **ss. 144**, 216(3); S.I. 2016/733, **reg. 3(c)**
- F3** S. 20(7)-(7C) substituted for s. 20(7) (15.1.2012) by [Localism Act 2011 \(c. 20\)](#), **ss. 112(2)**, 240(1)(h) (with **ss. 112(6)**, 144)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Pt. 2 modified (temp.) (28.11.2008) by [Local Government \(Structural Changes\) \(Transitional Arrangements\) \(No.2\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/2867\)](#), **regs. 1(1)**, **21(1)**, 23(2) (with **reg. 1(2)**)
- C2** S. 20 excluded (28.11.2008) by [Local Government \(Structural Changes\) \(Transitional Arrangements\) \(No.2\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/2867\)](#), **regs. 1(1)**, **23(3)** (with **reg. 1(2)**)

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 20 in force at 6.8.2004 for specified purposes by [S.I. 2004/2097](#), **art. 2**
- I2** S. 20 in force at 28.9.2004 for E. so far as not already in force by [S.I. 2004/2202](#), **art. 2(b)**

Changes to legislation:

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Section 20 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 November 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2006/1061 art. 4 by [S.I. 2010/321 art. 3](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2007/1369 art. 3 by [S.I. 2010/321 art. 4](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 15A-15LH and cross-heading substituted for s. 15-37 and cross-heading by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 7](#)
- s. 38(2A) substituted for s. 38(2)(3) by [2023 c. 55 s. 92\(3\)](#)
- s. 38(5A)-(5C) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 93\(2\)](#)
- s. 38(9A) substituted for s. 38(9) by [2023 c. 55 s. 92\(4\)](#)
- s. 38(9B) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 93\(4\)](#)
- s. 38B(A1) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 98\(2\)](#)
- s. 38B(2B)(2C) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 98\(3\)](#)
- s. 38C(5)(d)(i)-(iii) and word substituted for words by [2023 c. 55 s. 99\(2\)](#)
- s. 39(1)(ba) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 21\(b\)](#)
- s. 39A and cross-heading inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 100](#)
- s. 45(A1) inserted by [2011 c. 20 Sch. 8 para. 14\(2\)](#)
- s. 113(1)(bb)-(bd) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 23\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 113(9)(f)(g) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 23\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 113(13) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 23\(5\)](#)
- s. 122(5)(za)(zb) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 25\(a\)](#)
- Sch. A2 para. 11(2)(da) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 99\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 2(1A) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 6(1A) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 7ZC(1A) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(11\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 7C(1A) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(14\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 8(7A) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(16\)\(g\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 1 substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(2\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 2(4) substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 3(1) substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 5 substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(6\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 6(4) substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(7\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 7(1) substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(8\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 7ZB substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(10\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 7ZC(4) substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(11\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 7ZD(1) substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(12\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 7B substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(13\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 7C(4) substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(14\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 7D(1) substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(15\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 10 substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(18\)](#)
- Sch. A2 para. 11(2)(ca) substituted for Sch. A2 para. 11(2)(c) by [2023 c. 55 s. 99\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 7ZA word substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(9\)](#)
- Sch. A1 para. 8(2)(a) word substituted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26\(16\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)

- Sch. A1 para. 8(3)(b) word substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(16)(c)
- Sch. A1 para. 8(6) word substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(16)(e)
- Sch. A1 para. 8(7) word substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(16)(f)(iii)
- Sch. A1 para. 9 word substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(17)
- Sch. A1 para. 13(1) word substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(20)(a)(iii)
- Sch. A1 para. 13(2) word substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(20)(b)
- Sch. A1 para. 13(3) word substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(20)(c)
- Sch. A1 para. 13(1) words inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(20)(a)(ii)
- Sch. A1 para. 3(3)(a) words omitted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(4)(b)
- Sch. A1 para. 7(3)(a) words omitted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(8)(b)
- Sch. A1 para. 7ZD(3)(a) words omitted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(12)(b)
- Sch. A1 para. 7D(3)(a) words omitted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(15)(b)
- Sch. A1 para. 2(1) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(3)(a)
- Sch. A1 para. 3(4) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(4)(c)(i)
- Sch. A1 para. 3(4) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(4)(c)(ii)
- Sch. A1 para. 4 words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(5)
- Sch. A1 para. 6(1) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(7)(a)
- Sch. A1 para. 7(4) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(8)(c)(i)
- Sch. A1 para. 7(4) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(8)(c)(ii)
- Sch. A1 para. 7ZC(1) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(11)(a)
- Sch. A1 para. 7ZD(4) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(12)(c)(i)
- Sch. A1 para. 7ZD(4) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(12)(c)(ii)
- Sch. A1 para. 7C(1) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(14)(a)
- Sch. A1 para. 7D(4) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(15)(c)(i)
- Sch. A1 para. 7D(4) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(15)(c)(ii)
- Sch. A1 para. 8(1) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(16)(a)(i)
- Sch. A1 para. 8(1) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(16)(a)(ii)
- Sch. A1 para. 8(2) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(16)(b)(i)
- Sch. A1 para. 8(2)(a) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(16)(b)(iii)
- Sch. A1 para. 8(5) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(16)(d)(i)
- Sch. A1 para. 8(5) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(16)(d)(ii)
- Sch. A1 para. 8(5) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(16)(d)(iii)
- Sch. A1 para. 8(7)(a) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(16)(f)(i)
- Sch. A1 para. 8(7)(b) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(16)(f)(ii)
- Sch. A1 para. 11 words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(19)
- Sch. A1 para. 13(1) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 26(20)(a)(i)