

Regional spatial strategies



National planning policy statements impacting on regional and local plans

The following national policy statements have an impact on regional spatial strategies and local development plans. These are all policies to be aware of in case they have any bearing on decisions.

The Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth (PPS4), which was published in December 2009, sets out a plan-led approach for town centres including leisure facilities and more intensive sport and recreation uses.

Click here to find out more:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications> and the following link provides more updated information:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicystatement4>

Among other planning documents, Planning Policy Statement 3, which focuses on housing, calls for quality new housing in order to contribute to sustainable and mixed communities and seeks to encourage the provision of and easy access to recreational areas.

Click here to find out more:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/planningpolicystatements/ps3/>

PPS13 (Transport, 2001) may also be of value. It seeks to promote access to leisure facilities by encouraging planners to place facilities within walking and cycling distances of customers. It also looks to make travel to these facilities safer through the layout of development. The Policy encourages planners to take into account the needs of disabled people and give priority to people over the ease of traffic movement in town centres.

Click here to find out more:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg13>

PPS1, Delivering Sustainable Development, is a further planning policy document which may be of value in shaping plans. First published in 2005 and since updated in 2007 and 2008, leisure is mentioned in a number of places. The updated supplement in 2007 refers to sustainable development. The policies look to create strong and vibrant communities by promoting community cohesion and inclusion whilst creating equal opportunity for all citizens. Swimming and pools have a big part to play in developing this cohesion.

It encourages development plans to support existing communities and contribute to the creation of safe, sustainable, liveable and mixed communities partly through the use of



leisure and community facilities, sport and recreation for all members of the community without having to rely on access by car.

Click here to find out more

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicystatement1>

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This section is intended to give some further background information into regional spatial strategies and local development plans, some of which may impact on any changes to planning, construction or sighting of a swimming pool.

In 2004, Regional Spatial Strategies, known as RSS's, replaced Regional Planning Guidance. This change came about under the Planning and Compulsory Act 2004 and is now encompassed by Planning Policy Statement 11. This all forms part of the statutory Development Plan for regions outside London. The strategies look at the next 15 to 20 years and incorporate a Regional Development Plan. Within the plans, approaches towards planning and transport infrastructure and policies are considered for each region. Local development documents, transport plans and processes for planning applications are also set out.

The Regional Spatial Strategies set out policies on key infrastructure to support development and this is where they could be of interest as this infrastructure will impact on pool building and developments you may want to undertake in the future.

If you need to consider this more closely, find out more at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

Regional Thematic, Housing and Cultural Strategies determine the amount of land that needs to be allocated to each specific objective and are the next level down from Regional Spatial Strategies.

Local development plans

Local Development Frameworks (Planning Policy Statement 12) and other local strategies sit beneath Regional Thematic, Housing and Cultural Strategies. The current policy document replaces PPS12 *Local Development Frameworks* and the companion guide *Creating LDFs produced in 2004*. It is possible to download any of these planning guidance documents from the Department of Local Government and Communities web site.

Click here to find out more



https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8475/localplanningconsultation.pdf

Local development plans and frameworks can lead to decisions being made in relation to pools. Sometimes, they can build a case to retain or replace a pool. In other cases, they can help to build a case for the asset to be transferred.

PPG17 technical studies and sports development strategies

It is also useful to be aware of your local authority's Planning and Policy Guidance Technical Study 17 (PPG17). Every local authority has been encouraged to commission a PPG17 Report which sets out its complete sports facilities including swimming pools as well as open spaces.

Each study is required to produce an assessment of needs and opportunities in order to support planning and development around sport.

Find out more at

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance17>