

Modernising Planning: Improving arrangements for the delivery of local plans and unitary development plans.

A Response by the Institution of Environmental Sciences to the DETR consultation paper dated March 1998.

1. The Institution welcomes the proposals for changes to the existing planning system of which these proposals for local plans and unitary development plans form a part.
2. We thoroughly endorse the principle of reducing timescales for reporting and for generally managing the process in a time effective way. We trust, however, that in the implementation of more streamlined programmes the essential elements of consultation are not impaired in any way.
3. We welcome also the proposed amendments to PPG 12 and look forward to commenting on these in more detail on their publication.
4. We strongly support the principle of the inclusion of environmental assessments within all local plans and trust that proper provision will be made for this both in legislation and in application. Due regard to sustainable development is essential at all levels of the planning process.
5. In addition to environmental considerations, economic aspects should be thoroughly considered in preparing local plans. Adequate economic analysis should be included and the requirement for use of economic instruments considered. This is especially important when consideration of such issues as urban renewal, remediation or development of 'brownfield' sites is involved.