

Appendix 4 - Tests of Soundness NPPF July 2018

35. Local plans and spatial development strategies are examined to assess whether they have been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements. Plans are “sound” if they are:-

a) **Positively prepared** - providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area’s objectively assessed needs; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development;

b) **Justified** - an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;

c) **Effective** - deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground; and

d) **Consistent with national policy** - enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in this Framework.

36. These tests of soundness will be applied to non-strategic policies in a proportionate way, taking into account the extent to which they are consistent with relevant strategic policies for the area.