**Local Plan system under the 2011 Localism Act**

Most of the above Documents are carried on to the new system and together comprise the Local Plan which is now the statutory development plan, produced at district and unitary level.

Counties still do not have a planning function unless they have converted themselves into unitary authorities (for example as did Wiltshire in 2009). Counties responsibilities continue to include highways and transport, waste and environmental matters.

Community Impact Analysis replaces Statement of Community Involvement.

The RSS (Regional Spatial Strategy) is now abolished removing the overall strategic level, but LEPs (Local Enterprise Panels) continue to give some limited regional guidance. Also housing allocations agreed previously with RSS and found in previous Core Strategy may be carried through to new system (or not).

Housing policy and required numbers, parking standards and residential density standards all devolved back to counties.

Horizontally: there is now a ‘duty to co-operate’ between adjacent local planning authorities at sub-regional level, this must be satisfactory to pass ‘soundness test’.

Neighbourhood Plans are now compulsory showing how the Local (development) Plan proposals will be carried out in neighbourhood and local area locations, prepared by a 21-strong neighbourhood forum.

Vertically: Local planning authorities have a ‘duty to support’ neighbourhoods in the plan preparation process and neighbourhoods have a ‘duty to agree’ with higher level Local Plan policy.

Model Statement on Sustainability is also required to pass the ‘soundness test’

Equality Impact Assessment for all new developments.

Please Note: Parish Plans may also be prepared but are now optional, non-statutory and not an alternative to Neighbourhood Plans but one of the Building Blocks.

Along with Parish Plans, a wide range of other existing local-level planning documents and plans may be used as Building Blocks in creating the Neighbourhood Plan, including Area Action Plans, Village Design Statements, Facilities Audits, Traffic Plans, Master Plans, and Site Briefs.