

**National Planning Forum**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**for immediate release**

## **Improving the Connection – examining the interface between Planning and Building Control**

In line with an emerging localism and decentralisation agenda, the need to reduce costs and deliver efficiencies, and a current consultation on changes needed to ensure the effective future of Building Regulations the National Planning Forum has published **Improving the Connection**. This explores the relationship between Planning and Building Control and makes proposals to improve the way the two services operate by avoiding overlap and duplication with better clarity for their separate, but linked, roles in delivering sustainable buildings.

Cllr Mike Haines, Chair of the National Planning Forum said: ‘The National Planning Forum contributes to the discussion about England’s planning system. This report starts a debate about how building control and planning can work more closely together to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of both services, which are critical to delivering localism and sustainability.’

Forum Vice-chair for the Professions, Brian Waters said: ‘Closer working between planning and building control can lead to better, cheaper, faster decisions; better use of resources; more efficient design processes and more sustainable outcomes. As the standards for sustainability and low carbon increase and the technologies to achieve these objectives become increasingly complex it is vital that there is better co-ordination between planning and building control.’

The report can be viewed at [www.natplanforum.org.uk](http://www.natplanforum.org.uk)

## Background note to Editors

**Improving the Connection** was commissioned following a discussion at the National Planning Forum in 2009 and has been produced by a working party of key organisations with interests in both building control and planning.

The **National Planning Forum** is the largest cross-sectoral forum focussing on planning in England with a mission to inspire planning and planners. It has a membership of over 70 organisations representing the key national organisations with a role in, and commitment to, planning. It is committed to ensuring that spatial planning in England is fit for purpose. For further information contact:

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