

- PPS3/PGS - consultation closed 27 February. Aim to get final PPS3 by Summer 2006. PGS timetable a matter for HMT, officials will be engaging with stakeholders on detailed issues.
- Barker 2 - call for evidence to be submitted by 28 March. Interim report likely early summer with final report by the end of the year. It was likely that the production of PPS4 on industrial and commercial development will be taken forward as part of the response to Barker 2. OFT are considering a reference to the MMC on competition issues in grocery retailing. Their preliminary report suggests that planning policy (PPS6) might be a factor.
- Planning Delivery Agreements - 21 local authority pilot studies launched on 24 January. Interim report due in Autumn 2006.
- E-planning - announced on 15 February that 95% of local authorities now rated "good" or "excellent" for their e-planning services. 1005 of English local authorities could now accept electronic planning applications via the Portal.
- Householder Development Consents Review - hope to publish the report of the review group shortly. This will also indicate a proposed way forward.
- Local Government - David Miliband is holding round table discussions with representatives of local authorities and other stakeholders about the future organisation of local government. The aim was to have a LG White Paper mid year.
- Cities - the State of the Cities report was published on 7 March. The focus was on the role of cities in driving national economic performance.
- GLA review - consultation completed on proposals to extend the powers of the Mayor on planning matters (development plans and development control). Consideration was now being given to the representations made. All London Boroughs are against the planning proposals.
- Climate change - coming up the political agenda. DEFRA will be publishing the Government's conclusions on the Climate Change Programme Review soon. Consideration was still being given to calls for a PPS on the subject.
- Energy Review and the Eddington Review into infrastructure provision were both likely to make recommendations relating to planning and approval processes.
- DfT will be publishing a consultation paper on the Ports Policy Review in the Spring.
- Any change to the planning procedures around major hazard sites is likely to follow on the HSE report on Buncefield.
- A final version of PPS25 (flooding) was likely to be published during Summer 2006, when consultation could also begin on PPS24 (noise).