

## **Standard Application Form and Validation of Planning Applications**

This communication advises local planning authorities (LPAs) of the revised implementation date of 6 April 2008 for the mandatory use of the Standard Application Form. The new procedures for validating planning applications will also apply from that date.

The consultation on validation requirements that took place last year, and subsequent informal consultations raised useful suggestions that have now been incorporated into the guidance to improve it. The Planning Portal had also received requests from LPAs for more time to implement the standard planning application form to minimise disruption to their current services.

Taking these two factors into consideration Communities and Local Government have decided that the new planning application system, comprising the form and information needed for applications to be valid, should be rolled out as a whole. This extension will allow LPAs adequate time to get both their IT systems and administrative processes in place, resulting in a greatly improved planning system for all.

The Government intends to amend the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 to provide for the mandatory use of the Standard Application Form and for the application of the new validation requirements on 6 April 2008. Before this date, LPAs should offer the new system when they are ready.

In order to help LPAs to prepare for the regulatory changes, the Department is today publishing draft revised Best Practice Guidance on the Validation of Planning Applications. The guidance contains a list of supporting information from which LPAs will be able to draw in preparing their lists.

The Department will consider comments received on the guidance. These should be sent to [asma.mouden@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:asma.mouden@communities.gsi.gov.uk) by 6 October. The Department intends to publish the final version of the guidance in early November.

For further information regarding the roll out of the Standard Application Form, please contact [scott.alford@planningportal.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:scott.alford@planningportal.gsi.gov.uk).