

Tests of Soundness

Local Plans are 'sound' if they are:

- (a) **Positively prepared:** Providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the areas 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 in 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 and other statements of national planning policy, where relevant.

Taken from the National Planning Policy Framework 2021, Paragraph 35