

# Guidance – Plan-making

## Statutory duty and the role of plans

### What is the role of supplementary planning documents?

Supplementary planning documents (SPDs) should build upon and provide more detailed advice or guidance on policies in an adopted local plan. As they do not form part of the development plan, they cannot introduce new planning policies into the development plan. They are however a material consideration in decision-making. They should not add unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development.

[Regulations 11 to 16 of the Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) set out the requirements for producing Supplementary Planning Documents.

In exceptional circumstances a [Strategic Environmental Assessment](#) may be required when producing a Supplementary Planning Document.

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