

ORGANISATION	LONDON FIRST
ID	1588
MATTER	M8 FORMAT, SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE PLAN

M8. Given the legal requirement for the Mayor to have regard to the need to ensure that the Plan is consistent with national policies, is it justified for certain policies to deviate from national policy and guidance?

1. The Greater London Authority Act 1999 at paragraph 41 (5) (a) states that in preparing or revising the strategy there is a *“need to ensure that the strategy is consistent with national policies”*.
2. In the original draft Plan, paragraph 0.0.20 acknowledged that, *“On some occasions, the Plan deviates from existing national policy and guidance”*. However, this sentence was deleted as part of the Minor Suggested Changes.
3. London First believes that the Mayor ought to be able to determine the right planning policies for London, subject to due process, without needing to conform to planning policies set by national government. However, this is not the law as it stands. Given that national planning policies are trying to address a wide range of physical, economic and social issues across the entire country, and the situation in London will sometimes be different, the Mayor should be able to be inconsistent with the NPPF where such inconsistencies are evidenced and justified through the Plan process.