

Question 63: Are there other sectors you think need particular support via these changes? What are they and why?

The cultural and creative industries are one of the fastest growing sectors of the UK economy. Key sectors vary across the country and may also change over time. Therefore, the NPPF should highlight the importance of sectors, strategic clusters and supply chains of regional or national significance while providing the flexibility to provide support for other sectors at local level. Other sectors may include types of advanced manufacturing, creative & digital, low carbon transition, and the nighttime economy. All of these may have strong supply chain connections with one another. These sectors can only flourish if appropriate skills and employment development is planned for alongside, so that benefits can be harnessed at local level.

Question 66: Do you have any other suggestions relating to the proposals in this chapter?

Space for a wide range of commercial, business, service and community uses are needed to support a modern economy. This includes production and consumption spaces for the cultural and creative industries. Cultural and creative uses can be challenging to categorise within use classes, but many will fall within use class E. While use class E provides an opportunity to establish such uses more easily, it equally places them at greater risk of being lost to higher land value uses. Within use class E, cultural and creative spaces are at risk of loss to housing without planning permission through Permitted Development Rights. Such permitted development rights make planning for the needs of cultural and creative industries challenging. They can negatively impact high streets, creative workspace and cultural venues. These permitted development rights should therefore be re-considered so that one of the UK's key sectors can be appropriately and positively planned for.

Question 70: How could national planning policy better support local authorities in (a) promoting healthy communities and (b) tackling childhood obesity?

We welcome the proposal to place significant weight on the importance of new, expanded or upgraded public service infrastructure when considering proposals for development (proposed paragraph 98).

Public leisure provision plays a significant role in tackling childhood obesity and promoting healthy communities whether school swimming lessons, or sports club participation, or the access to green open space. Such public facilities are of particular importance in reducing health inequalities and achieving better health outcomes for all, including those on lower incomes.

Equally important, however, are cultural and social facilities not immediately associated with physical activity. Such facilities, including libraries and other cultural spaces, play a positive important role in addressing the wider determinants of health. They provide spaces to build relationships, develop social capital, develop early years skills, and promote basic skills, all of which are essential contributors to good health and wellbeing.

We would recommend that the requirement for planning policies relating to open space, sport and recreation facilities to be based on up to date and robust assessments be extended to include cultural infrastructure, ensuring that facilities not immediately associated with physical activity are appropriately planned for.

There is growing evidence to suggest the most effective means of preventing childhood obesity is through measures designed to reduce children's exposure to health-harming products. The NPPF should give a greater priority to supporting policies and interventions that aim to influence the accessibility, availability and visibility of unhealthy food. Policies and interventions such as these are often combined with those around physical activity promotion. This can reduce the impact of both policy approaches. To prevent this the NPPF should make a clear distinction between physical activity promotion and reducing exposure to unhealthy food and other health-harming products.