Some issues raised in the original consultation have already had Government responses; of those now responded to, the following three are relevant to AR. First, the Housing White paper contains proposals to raise planning fees by 20% by summer 2017 and the Government will explore ways to raise efficiency in determining applications. Second, the Neighbourhood Planning Bill contains a requirement for every LPA to set out policies to deliver the strategic priorities for the development and use of land in their area in their development plan documents; and the Secretary of State will acquire powers to prescribe intervals at which local planning authorities are required to review their planning documents, to ensure that plans are kept up to date. Third, the Government will bring forward regulations at an appropriate opportunity to require LPAs to set out in planning reports the deliver financial benefits which would accrue from the proposed development (it remains to be seen whether this will extend beyond Section 106 payments to include other financial benefits such as council tax, business rates CIL etc).

Subject to conditions, ARsupported the first two proposals. We did not comment on the third, but transparency is acceptable provided its implementation does not introduce further delay into the planning determination process.