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Planning services

The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is about positive growth – making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations.

Do I need planning permission?

You might need planning permission if you want to:

- Build something new
- Make a major change to your building, such as build an extension
- Change the use of your building or land.

Some house/building extensions and changes of use do not require a specific planning application. This is called permitted development.

To find out more about planning permission and permitted development rights, please visit the following link.

- [Planning Portal Interactive House and Common Projects](#)

Previous planning permission(s) for your property may have altered or removed your permitted development rights.

If you are in any doubt as to whether the permitted development rights for your property are intact, please get in contact with us using our [pre-application advice service](#).

- [Pre-application advice and guidance notes](#) (pdf 230 kb)

It is a criminal offence to carry out works to a listed building or protected trees without first getting permission from the council, even if you did not know the building was listed or the trees were protected.

Contact planning

For planning queries and appointments please call Customer Services on 023 9244 6019, you can also visit the Customer Services desk at the Plaza.

It is advised you make an appointment with a Planning Officer in advance, this will allow you to:

- Speak to the Planning Officer about a current application.
- Seek planning advice prior to submitting an application (a charge will usually apply for the service)
- Research specific property history.

[The planning application process](#)

[Pre-application advice service](#)

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Related documents

- [Plain English guide to the planning system \(pdf 334 kb\)](#)

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