

Last Gasp

the potential of spatial planning to
contribute to air quality

John Baker



how spatial planning can contribute to reducing emissions

- through strategic planning
- through the delivery of more higher performing housing
- through the planned development of large sites

the current performance of planning in all of these areas could be far better

what has gone wrong and what needs to be done?

strategic spatial planning

- coordination of housing, economic development and infrastructure provision to optimise resources
- directing a greater proportion of development to larger settlements
 - greater accessibility to facilities and services
 - housing near jobs
 - shorter trips
 - more use of lower carbon transport modes

regional strategies abolished - with a further round we could have had

- two parts of the development plan developed together through dialogue
- sub regional strategies addressing functional areas needing spatial strategies and decisions



the loss

what has been lost is the spatial planning of functional areas according to the role of settlements and the relationship between settlements, regardless of administrative boundaries

and the replacement - strategic spatial planning by local plans

the Government's view is that strategic planning is now to be achieved through local plans and by local authorities cooperating over strategic issues

the basic idea is that local plans collectively address strategic issues by each plan responding to what the evidence shows is needed from its area

critical elements from law and policy

Localism Act

- local authorities must cooperate..... to **maximise the effectiveness** of plan preparation
- engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis....

The Framework and the tests of soundness

- **positively prepared** - the plan should be based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development

the problems of strategic planning by local plans

- unclear which authorities share strategic issues
- those who need to cooperate may not want to cooperate
- different plans are at different stages
- the only means of 'policing' the duty to cooperate is through Inspectors examining plans - an impracticable burden

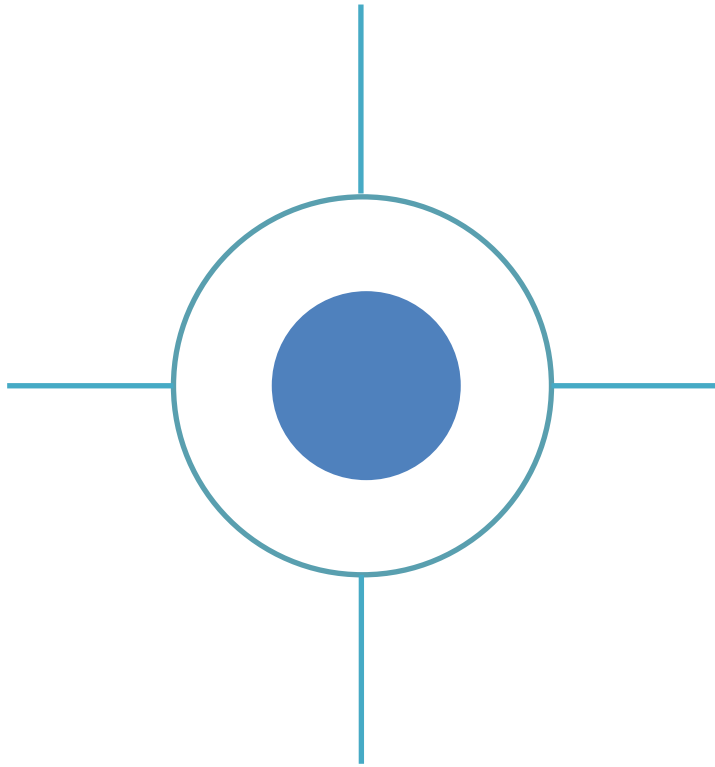
but Inspectors are doing what they can

The 'duty to co-operate' requires more than consultation with adjacent Councils and specified bodies. It requires a co-ordinated process for securing sustainable development and resolving strategic issues. From the evidence I have seen I consider that the Council's approach to capture of 'beyond the plan area implications' falls short of fulfilling the 'duty to co-operate'.

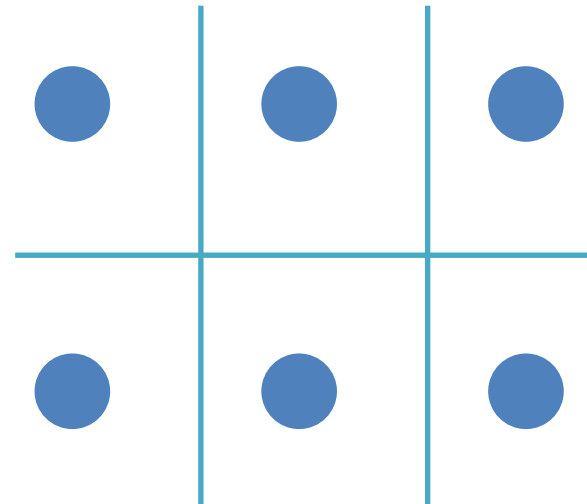
Kirklees Plan Inspector April 2013

- the evidence on different strategic issues relates to different geographical areas
- the significance of an issue wanes with distance
- creating new strategic planning areas is probably not the answer

functional areas and cooperating bodies

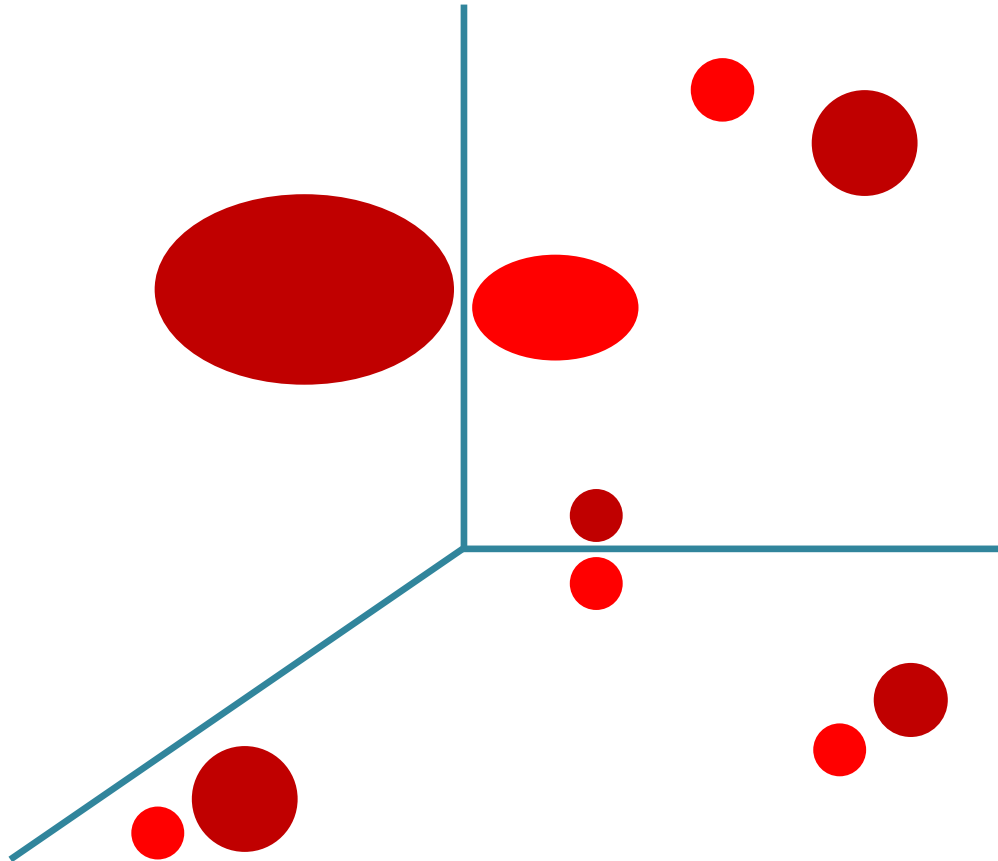


relatively easy when local authorities grouped around 'city region'



less so with 'polycentric' settlement patterns

spatial planning led district housing



distribution
determined by
settlement pattern
and roles

district housing
figures identified
by overlaying
boundaries

how might strategic planning by coordinating local authorities be achieved?

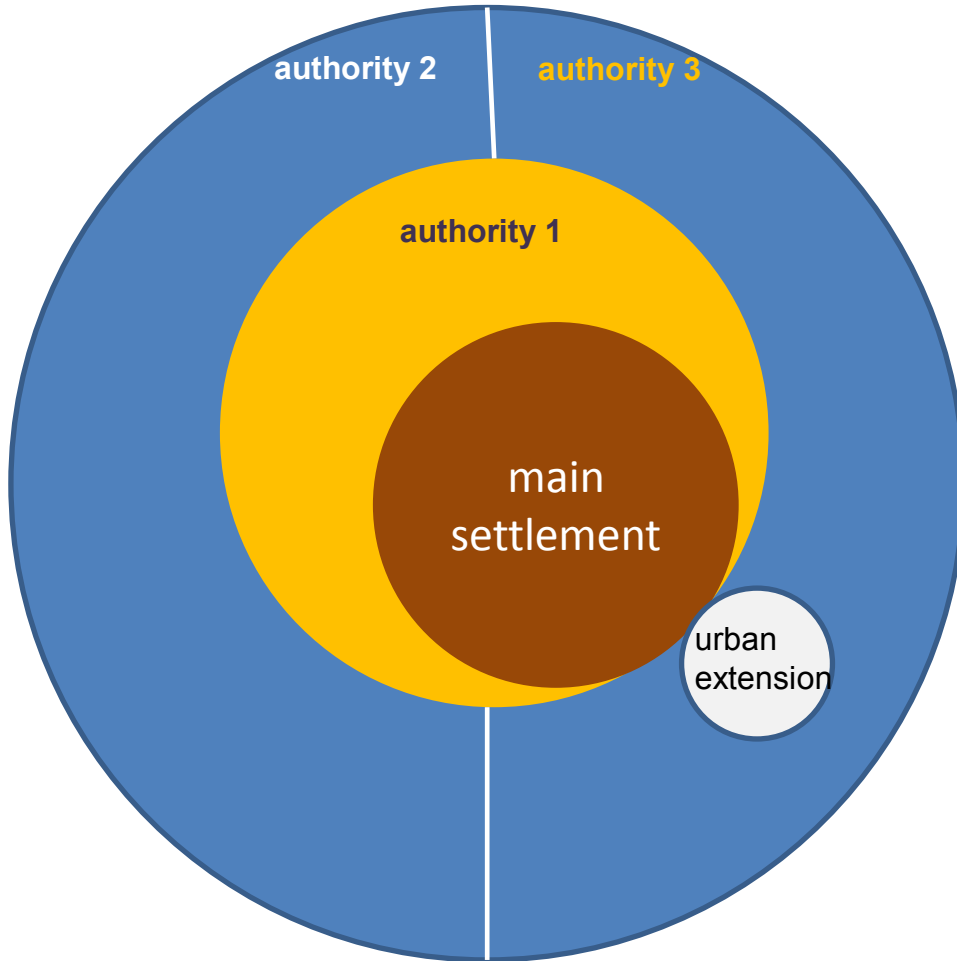
- reporting on cooperation in the Annual Monitoring Report - NPPG
- self identified federations of local authorities working under public scrutiny
- towns having a right to grow over their boundaries

Ed Miliband

24 September 2013

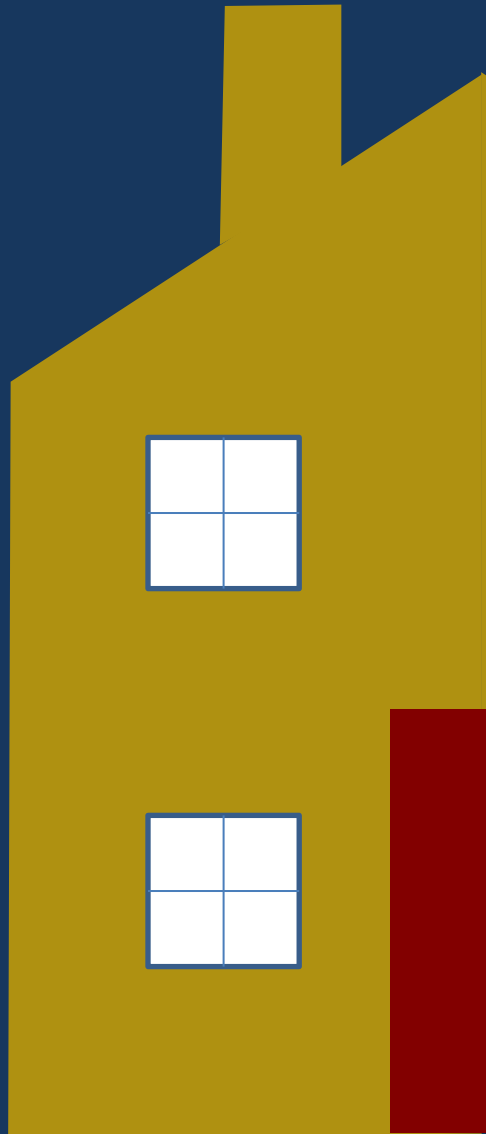


sustainable development



development on the edge of urban areas generating population and economic growth, with the greatest accessibility to facilities and sources, is amongst the most sustainable

250,000
homes
needed
each year



125,000
homes being
provided

housing should be provided through local plans

not enough provision being made through plans

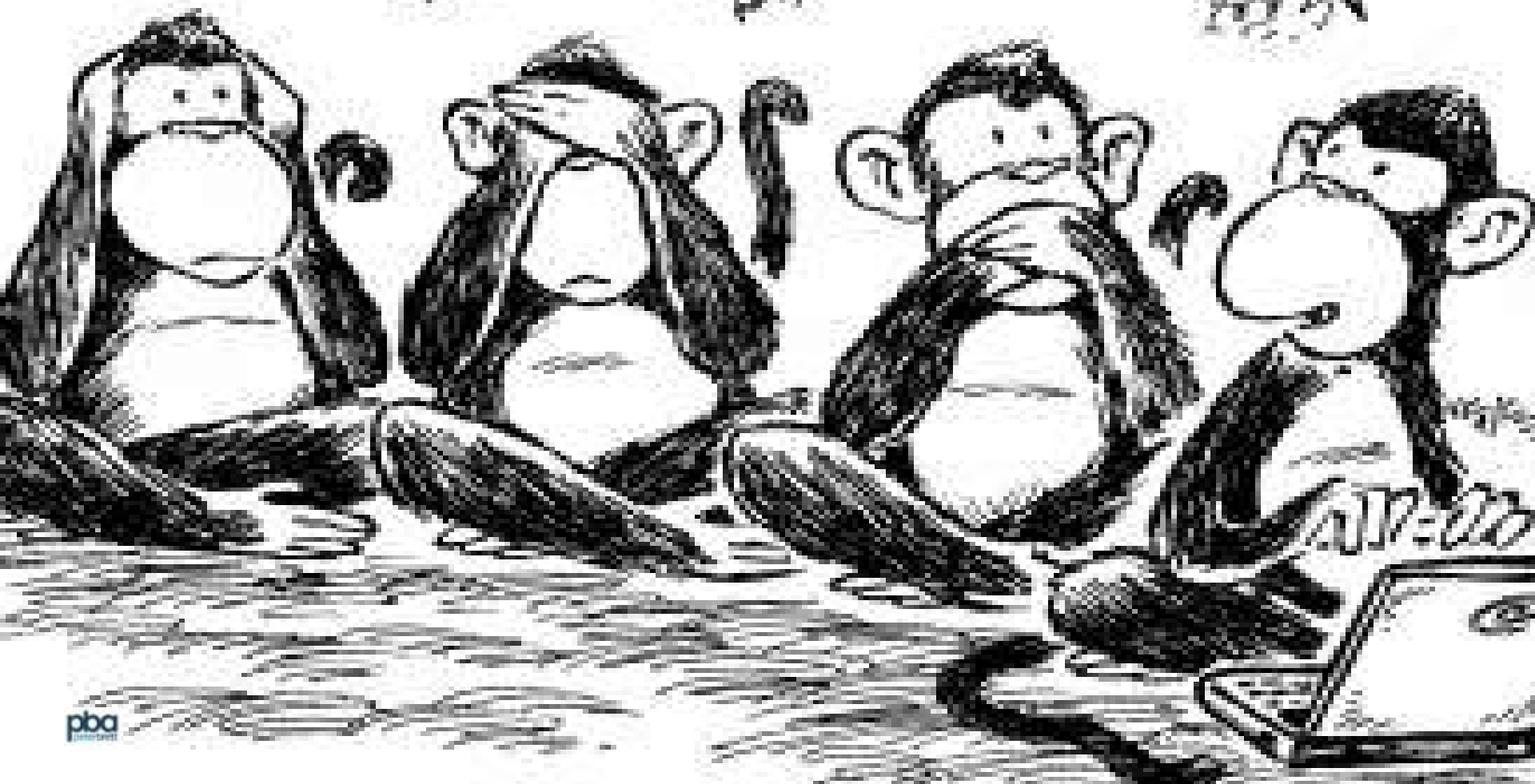
- public opposition to house building leads to local authorities seeking to avoid what the evidence shows the requirement to be
- Inspectors are now exercising national policy zealously - leading to plans stalling

setting the housing requirement

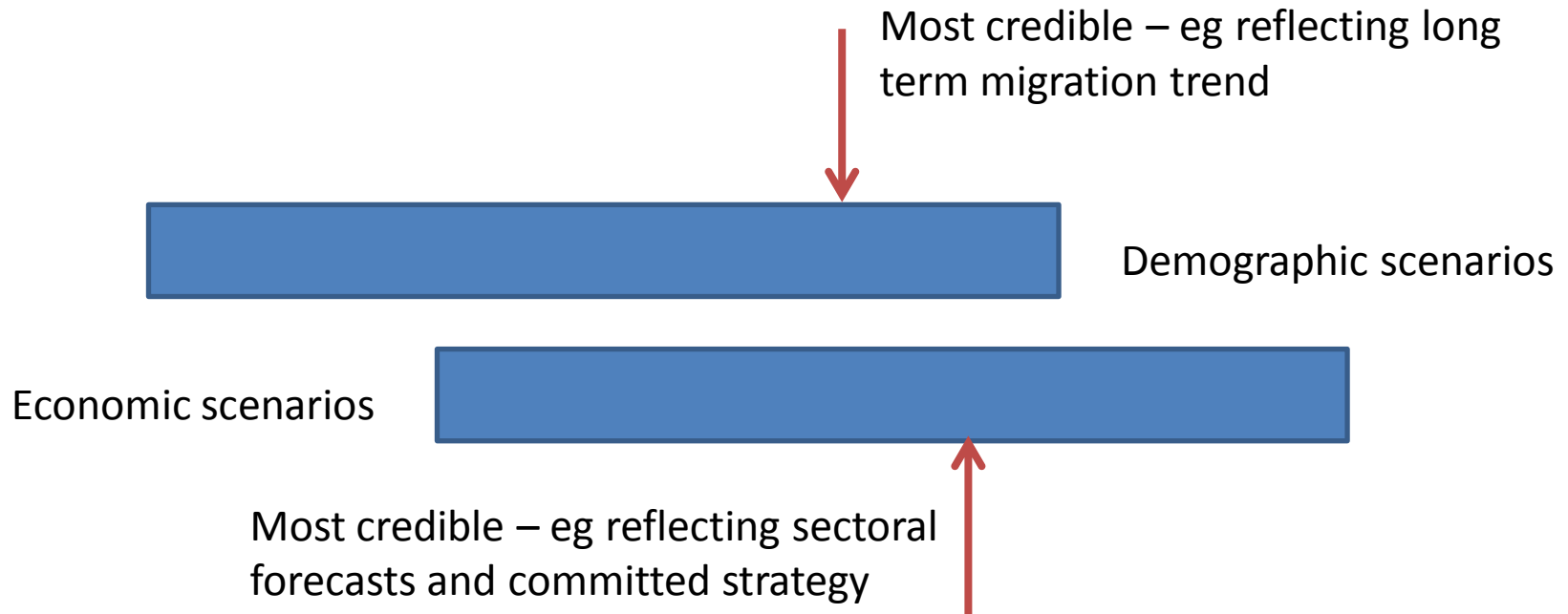
- the local authority cannot 'pick a number'
- it has to work with realistic scenarios
- it cannot assume changes that the plan cannot bring about



How much housing
do you think?



approach to seeing the requirement now established by combining demographic and economic scenarios



- if economic led requirement greater, take this
- if lower, use demographic led requirement

why the housing requirement should be addressed

- maintains the population and supports communities
- spending on homes is investment in buildings and places
- building homes stimulates and accommodates economic growth
- addresses the affordable housing need
- supports facilities and services
- increases the average performance of the housing stock



well planned large sites

- masterplanning provides for incorporation of best principles
- mixed uses increase accessibility



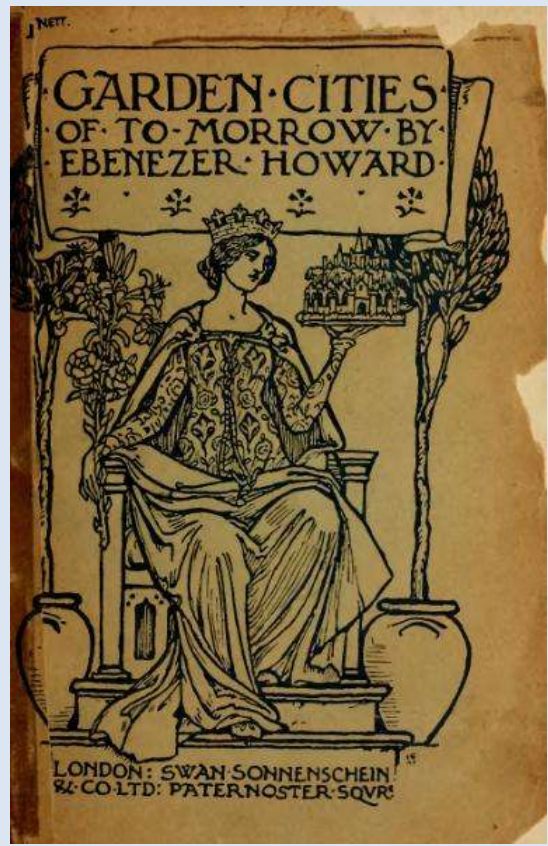
well planned large sites

- design can incorporate good quality provision for cycling and walking
- opportunity to include community based energy regeneration



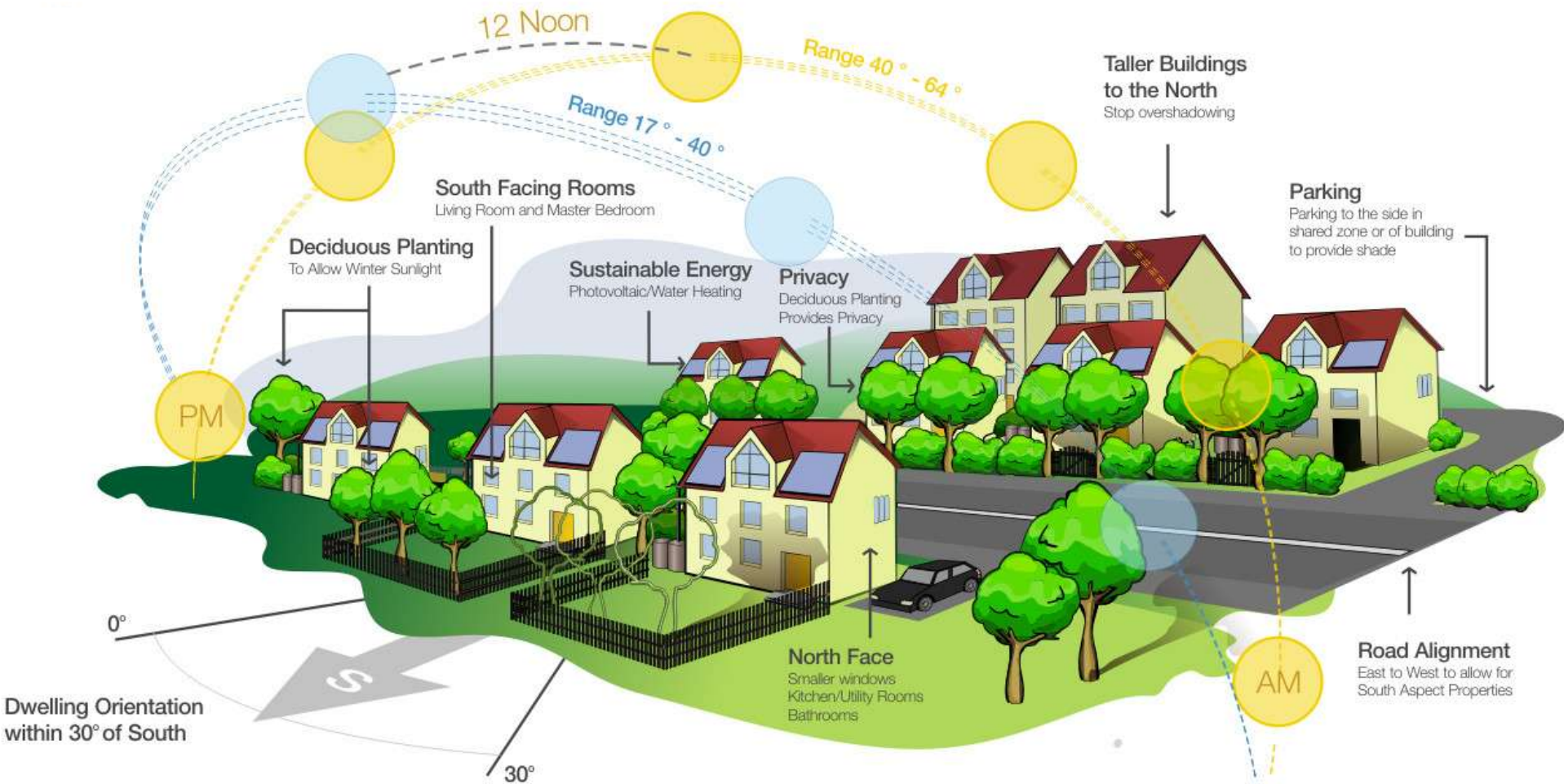
The supply of new homes can sometimes be best achieved through planning for a larger scale development, such as new settlements or extensions to existing villages and towns that follow the principles of Garden Cities

Framework para 52



risks to planning of large sites

- development plans not being prepared
- emphasis on five year supply is discouraging schemes with long lead times
- viability and deliverability may be harder to demonstrate for strategic sites
- housing provision in the absence of plans is favouring smaller, readily deliverable sites



some messages

- prepare spatial development plans
- work with functional areas
- plan positively to a purpose – not to pass a test
- pursue a vision and objectives – whatever the ‘system’ of the time
- work closely with the promoters of strategic sites to produce deliverable high performing development

Last Gasp

the potential of spatial planning to
contribute to air quality

John Baker

