



National Planning Forum

INSPIRING PLANNING

National Planning Forum 15.12.10

Executive Board Update

Mike Hayes, Secretary

2009/10 Annual Report

In 2009/10 the National Planning Forum:

- Held 4 meetings attended by 161 delegates.
- Received 13 presentations from, *inter alia*, The Foresight Project; English Heritage; Department for Communities and Local Government; the Right Hon. Bob Neil MP, Shadow Minister for Planning and the National Housing Planning Advice Unit.
- Initiated reports addressing:
 - Culture Change Action Plan Monitoring
 - Fit for Purpose Spatial Planning
 - Mediation in Planning
 - Improving the Connection - Planning and Building Control
- Exhibited at the 2009 Planning Convention.
- Managed the replacement of the Secretary following the retirement of Kay Powell after four years' service in the role.
- Welcomed Local Authority Building Control as a new member.



National Planning Forum
Annual Report
2009 – 2010

2009/12 Business Plan

In the light of these changed and very different circumstances it is clear to the Board that the National Planning Forum remains as relevant as ever - both as a place for members to engage with the new agenda from a cross-sector perspective and as a critical friend to and sounding board for government as new policies and practice emerge.

The Forum is uniquely placed to provide thought leadership to spatial planning in England and will use the experience and perspective of its membership to support the new techniques, skills and cultures the new planning emerging from the Decentralisation and Localism Bill requires.



“Our mission is to inspire planning and all those involved in planning and to help achieve quality, inspiring places that enhance productivity as well as people’s well-being”

National Planning Forum

Business Plan

2010 – 2012



2009/12 Business Plan

Priorities:

- Engage with the new planning agenda
- Support the new planning through NPF projects
- Develop awareness of the NPF, improving member services
- Grow the membership
- Grow and broaden the resource base



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National Planning Forum

Business Plan

2010 – 2012

2009/12 Business Plan

Performance measures and targets

Activity	Outcome	Timetable
Engaging with the new planning agenda		
1. Providing members with information and the opportunity to comment on changing policies and practice	Four Forum events each year covering the range of policy initiatives, attracting key speakers and recording and publicizing the discussion. Using Forum discussion to produce 'soundings', think pieces and informal commentary.	Q1,2,3,4, 2010 - 13
2. Using the experience of Forum members to provide advice to ministers and officials around the Decentralisation and Localism Bill and its implementation.		
3. Contributing to the development of new policy and practice through comment and research.		

2009/12 Business Plan

Performance measures and targets

Supporting the new planning through NPF projects		
4. Mediation in Planning	Securing support from government and stakeholders, producing a practitioner's guide and mainstreaming mediation in the context of localism.	Complete project plan by March 2011
5. Improving the Connection	Complete and publish report and contribute to CLG review of building regulations. Work with Building Control Alliance, POS and others to develop better connections between planning and building control in the context of developing sustainability targets and local service delivery.	Report published September 2010. Review progress in March 2011.
6. Localism in Practice	Develop a series of task and finish projects to enable the Forum to contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood and local planning • Community participation and engagement • Infrastructure planning • Local Enterprise Partnerships • National Planning Policy Framework 	Prepare work programme for review in March 2011



2009/12 Business Plan

Performance measures and targets

Developing awareness, improving the service, making the archive more widely available		
7. Refreshing the website	Brief in preparation	Complete June 2011
8. Producing a regular email newsletter	To publicise activities of the Forum and its members	Develop quarterly newsletter – commencing Q1 2011
Growing the membership		
9. Adopting a more flexible membership structure	Agree policy on Associate Membership and raise awareness to attract new members.	Policy agreed Oct 2010 – awareness campaign Q1 2011
10. Increasing the number of members	Target – to attract 5 new members each year	March 2011
11. Publicising the benefits of membership	Through exhibiting at relevant events, preparing editorial material for publication and planned newsletter.	Planning Convention complete – article February 2011
Growing and broadening the resource base		
12. Actively pursuing the 'every member contributes' strategy	Putting Forum member subscriptions on a firm and rational basis and ensuring all members contribute.	On-going



2009/12 Business Plan Resources

PLANNED INCOME

	2010/11	2011/12
Subscription target	£30000	£40000
CLG support	£13000	£5000
Total	£43000	£45000

PLANNED EXPENDITURE

Secretarial support	£30000	£30000
Mediation in Planning project	£18000	
Localism in Practice		£5000
VWebsite refresh	£5000	£5000
VWebsite maintenance	£500	£700
Exhibition	£1000	£1500
General expenses	£1000	£2000
TOTAL	£55,500*	£44200

- Shortfall to be funded from project contributions previously received and reserves





Membership policy, subscriptions and funding

1. The Forum continues to grow its membership across the five sectors attracting organisations engaged in policy and practice in spatial planning.
2. Additionally, the Forum creates an Associate Member class – open to individual (i.e. non-representative) companies or organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors.
3. Admittance to Associate membership will be at the discretion of the Board and will require the payment of an annual subscription.
4. At any one time there will not be more than 10 Associate Members of the National Planning Forum.
5. The Associate Member initiative be reviewed in 2012

On subscriptions the Board agreed to maintain its policy of moving towards an 'everyone contributes' regime; but, mindful of the current financial circumstances, agreed that subscriptions would continue to require individual negotiation.

The Forum requires an income of £45/50k per annum to function at a meaningful level.

In 2010/11 subscriptions will raise around £30k. DCLG's income is being phased out. There is a need to widen the level of support and grow the membership.

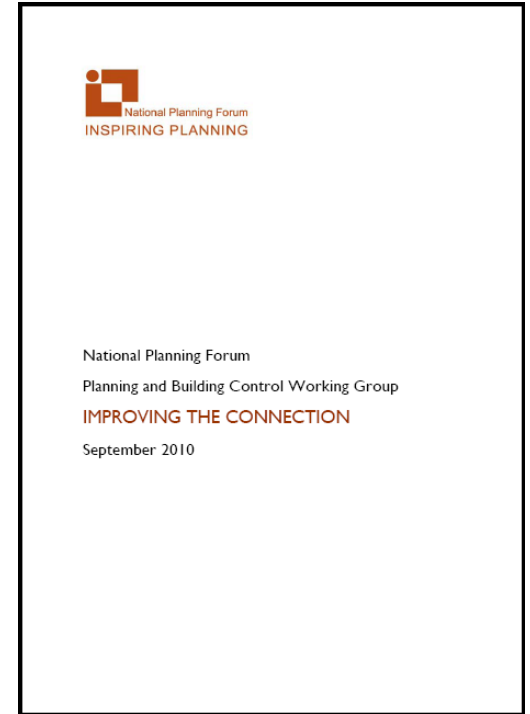




Improving the Connection

Improving clarity in the of role and purpose of planning and building control through:

- Shared objectives
- Clear roles
- Improve the position and recognition of building control within local authorities
- Increase knowledge and awareness

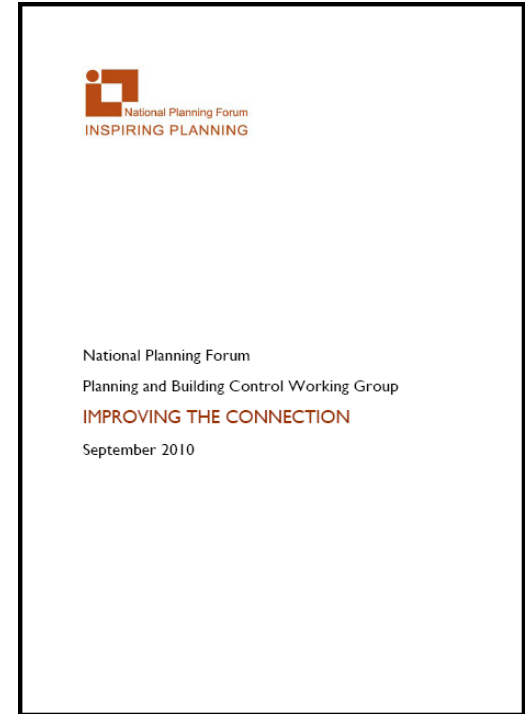




Improving the Connection

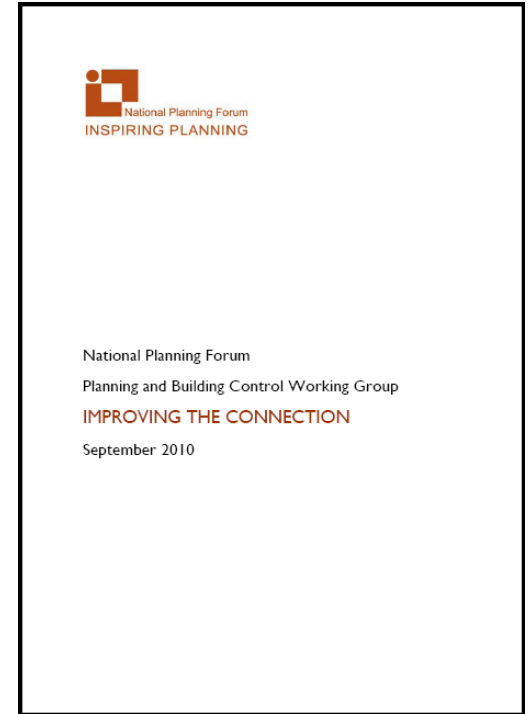
Improving the links to achieve better service outcomes through:

- Develop skills, procedures and organisation in joint working
- Pursue the Development Management approach to major and complex development proposals
- The Planning Portal



Improving the Connection

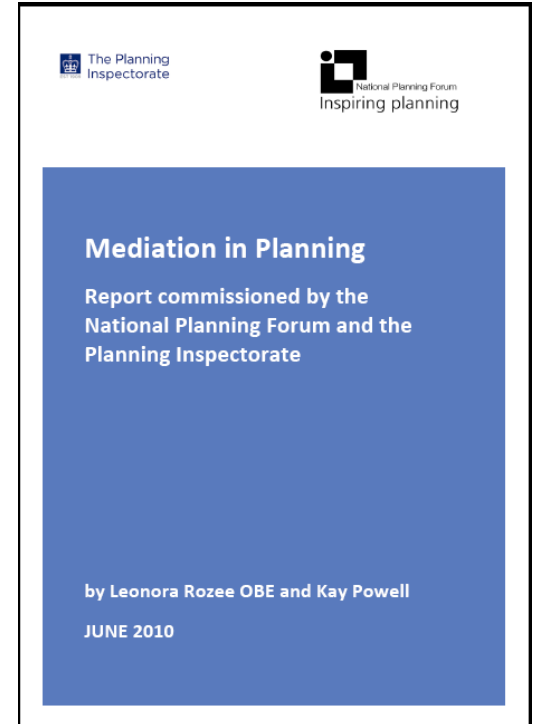
- Published in September
- Submitted as part of CLG's consultation on the 2013 Building Regulations
- Building Control Alliance initiative to take forward recommendations on joint working



Mediation in Planning

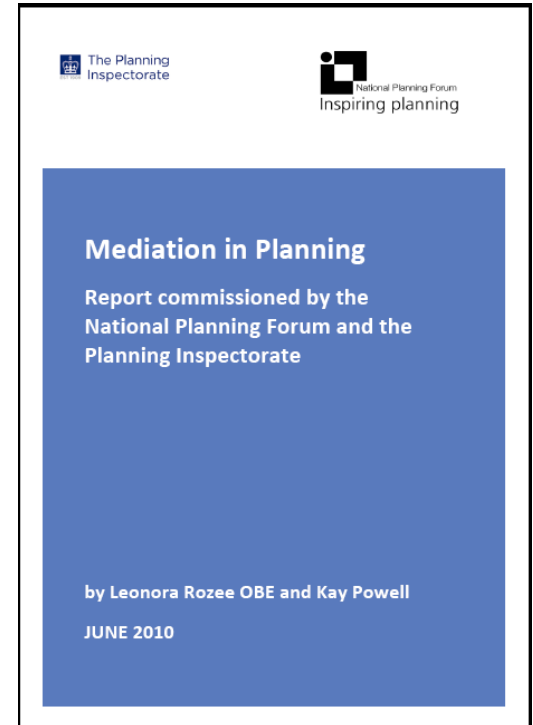
“We firmly believe that the time is now right for mediation to take its place in the toolbox of the planning system.”

- Developing and building a market
- Providing advice and guidance
- Developing skills and creating capacity



Mediation in Planning

- Meeting with minister in November
- Confirm key stakeholder support
- Establish steering group
- Agree and implement Phase I Project Plan



Vice-chair for Government Agencies

The role involves joining the Executive Board as the advocate for planning and planners within Government Agencies in discussions on the direction of the NPF and the issues it should debate.

The minimum requirement is for attendance at four Executive Board meetings a year in central London, in addition to the four Forum meetings. In addition, the previous vice-chair commenced regular 'sector meetings' (held immediately prior to Forum meetings), which have proved useful in bringing the sector together to discuss issues of common concern. Vice-Chairs are also expected to offer to lead on particular pieces of work e.g. by chairing a Task and Finish Group, from time to time.

www.natplanforum.org.uk