

NATIONAL PLANNING FORUM: 9 MARCH 2006

ITEM 4(f)

PROGRESS ON THE BUSINESS PLAN, AND WORK PROGRAMME 05/06

1. The draft Business Plan for 2005/8 was considered by the Forum last Autumn, and the Work Programme for 2005/6 (see Annex) confirmed last December.
2. Progress to date on the Annual Work Programme is as follows:
 - A1 - Climate Change Good Practice Note and Communique published
 - Work on developing a case for a National Spatial Framework in hand
 - A2 - Work in progress to seek common ground on Housing and PGS
 - Culture Change Working Group established
 - A3 - Participated in both Planning Delivery Agreement pilot workshops
 - A4 - Fringe event at LGA Sustainable Communities conference 14 February; support from the LGA, the Planning Advisory Service for sponsorship to enable printing of the programme and provision of refreshments, TCPA for production of the programme flyer, RTPi for use of the CD ROM of their 2005 Awards gratefully acknowledged
 - A5 - Work on branding Planning and attracting/retaining young planners in Progress
 - A6 - Recruitment of members in progress: 10 new organizations and 2 new contributors to date
3. Work is underway to ensure all other workstreams are delivered on target.

ANNEX

**NATIONAL PLANNING FORUM : 13 DECEMBER 2005
WORK PROGRAMME 05/06 AND PROPOSED WORKING GROUPS**

1. *The NPF-ODPM Service Level Agreement requires agreement on "a 3-year business plan and annual work programme". The draft Business Plan for 2005/8 was considered by the Forum on 19 September.*
2. *At that meeting, the Chair summarised members' views that the Plan should include work on the implications of climate change, SEA, spatial planning, community involvement, delivery and design. Detailed comments were that the NPF should :*
 - *extend its links with organisations eg health, infrastructure and insurance*

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- providers to facilitate spatial planning,*
- work towards making the new planning system work better,*
- concentrate on cross-cutting issues where it can make common cause,*
- monitor and advise where there are difficulties with the new system,*
- be a sounding board for the ODPM/Baker LDF research,*
- keep infrastructure on the agenda, and*
- input to development of community involvement in plan-making*

3. In order to take this work forward, the Executive Board (EB) proposes to establish 4 working groups. Expressions of interest in serving on each are invited, either at the meeting, or or before it (via the Secretary please).

Suggestions of involvement in these working groups of umbrella bodies or individuals with planning expertise on these topics, but not members of the Forum at present, are also welcome. Each working group will be led by an EB member, and its work will be supported by the Secretary. The proposed working groups are:

(i) *Planning Gain Supplement (PGS) - this working group, lead by Liz Peace, will consider Government proposals, seek common ground and coordinate the NPF response to consultation.*

(ii) *Housing - the working group will be lead by Henry Oliver. It will consider Government proposals, focus on common interests, and formulate a response to future consultation.*

(iii) *Culture Change - Mark Southgate is to lead this group. Initially, work will concentrate on establishing the planning 'brand' via a facilitated workshop, and on developing a programme for testing and marketing the result.*

(iv) *Delivery - Mike Hayes in the lead. This group will provide support to the proposed pilot study of Delivery Agreements, for the community engagement element of the new spatial plans, and for delivery of growth areas in the context of statutory plans.*

4. More specific actions to reflect the above have been added to the Annual Work Programme for 2005/6 (see Annex).

Kay S Powell
Secretary
November 2005

ANNEX : NPF ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 05/06

ACTIONS	PRODUCTS	TIMESCALE	LEAD	RESOURCES
A1 Pursue and complete outstanding work on the 04/05 programme	- Publish Climate change GPN and Communiqué	By Dec 05	Secretary	NPF
	- Develop a case for a National Spatial Framework (NSF) [link to A7]	By Summer 06	Chair and Secretary	NPF
	- Update the NPF Concordat and integrate with future work	By Summer 06	Executive	NPF

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ACTIONS	PRODUCTS	TIMESCALE	LEAD	RESOURCES
A2 Generate and seek agreement to GPNs/ concordats on issues of value to practitioners and users of the planning system	- PGS+ housing respond to Govt. proposals + consultations - Culture change: establish and test a persuasive brand for planning [link to A5]	By end 06	Executive	NPF, plus additional inputs if required
A3 Continue to input to policy development to ensure improved delivery by, and performance of the planning system	- Contribution to work on piloting Delivery Agreements - Build on GPN engagement in LDFs and RSS, and demonstrate improved delivery	By end 06	Nominees on Steering Group and Secretary	NPF
A4 Encourage high quality spatial solutions that contribute to success in achieving more sustainable development	- Fringe event at LGA conference: to stimulate interest in the work of the NPF, share views on changing practice, celebrate success	February 06	Secretary /LGA	LGA + RTPI
A5 Promote a positive image for planning and planners	- Reactivate branding project [link to A2] - Project to attract/retain young planners	By end 06	Executive and Secretary	To be identified
A6 Establish criteria for membership of NPF and required contributions	- Papers to Forum on membership/ modus operandi - Ensure active, representative membership is fully engaged in the Forum's work	by end Dec 05	Executive and Secretary	NPF
A7 Continue to develop the capacity of the NPF to make an authoritative and distinctive contribution to spatial planning in England	- Ensure the NPF is informed of work to develop spatial planning - Engage with partners to develop a case for an NSF [link to A1]	By end 06	Executive and Secretary	NPF