

NATIONAL PLANNING FORUM: 4 DECEMBER 2008

DRAFT CULTURE CHANGE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

Background

1. The Draft Culture Change Action Plan was considered at our October meeting. Additions since then are shown in italics below. The Executive Board and officials at Communities and Local Government have agreed this revised draft subject to further work being undertaken to clarify and refine the proposed measures.

Next Steps

2. Further commitments to action resulting from discussion at this meeting will be added to the framework below. Mark Southgate will finalise the Action Plan on behalf of the Executive Board before arrangements are made for its launch in January 2009.

NPF MANIFESTO COMMITMENT	STRATEGIC ACTION	SPECIFIC ACTIONS	BY WHOM/ WHEN	MEASURE (<i>a sharper focus is needed for these - suggestions welcome</i>)	ACTION BY EACH ORGANISATION (<i>additions since the 14 10 version in italics</i>)
Understand and promote the role that planning plays in place shaping	1. Improve awareness by all stakeholders of the new approach to planning and their role in it	1.1 Ensure all NPF members' web-sites contain up-to-date briefing material on the new planning system and the organisation's role in it, plus links to relevant web-sites with further information	All + NPF Secretary by 06/2009	Evidence of an increased number of professionals, Members, the development community and members of the public with an improved understanding of the new planning system	<i>PINS - use their electronic Newsletter and web-site to provide better information on PINS' role in planning</i> <i>ATCM - prepare and disseminate a layman's guide to the planning system for all TCM partnership members</i> <i>BPF - update BPF web-site to include information about spatial planning and links to relevant web-sites such as NPF, RTPI etc</i> <i>BIAC - ensure the Rural Planning Division web-site contains up-to-date briefing material on the new planning system</i> <i>RSPB - use web-site to inform members about the planning system, including links to the 'Take Action for Wildlife' campaign</i>
		1.2 Co-operate on joint case studies, dissemination of best practice and training both within and across sectors, providing inputs and holding joint events (Professional Institutes, POS, PAS, Govt Agency Planners etc)	All by 10/2009	Number of instances of cooperation achieved, and evidence of its impact	<i>PINS -</i> <i>(i) continue extensive ongoing training of inspectors in the LDF process,</i> <i>(ii) provide speakers to support others in raising awareness of their role in the planning system,</i> <i>(iii) provide more effective feedback of the outcomes of appeals, DPD and RSS examinations (quality of outcomes as well as process), and</i> <i>(iv) provide information on quality outcomes in its Annual Report</i> <i>Environment Agency (EA) - establish:</i> <i>(i) a network of planners in Government Agencies (GA) to exchange ideas and improve practice;</i> <i>(ii) a job shadowing scheme with local government; and</i>

					<p>encourage (iii) technical development frameworks for staff training on the EA model in other Govt Agencies PAS - investigate producing joint case studies of best practice that tell the same story from different perspectives Arup- internal planning law seminars BPF - explore with relevant Government Agencies and PAS holding seminars for BPF members on best practice for planning RSPB - (i) provide relevant and timely information to planners through RSPB bi-annual publication 'Conservation Planner'; (ii) provide speakers on conservation and planning issues to RTPi and other events; and (iii) build capacity of own and other NGO staff on planning and environmental assessment issues</p>
<p>Appreciate the complexity of planning, but simplify its procedures</p>	<p>2. Demystify planning and link it to corporate policy and programmes to ensure joined-up policy and delivery</p>	<p>2.1 Identify means of reflecting Planning policy at Departmental and delivery levels including Cabinet, Treasury and Government Agencies</p>	<p>CLG/ Govt Agencies by 06/2009</p>	<p>Evidence of improved understanding of planning across Government Departments and Agencies</p>	<p>CLG - prepare a narrative on the role and purpose of planning for colleagues in CLG and OGDs</p>
		<p>2.2 Ensure that the Cabinet member with responsibility for planning delivery works with the LAA and new performance framework and ensures integration between plan-making and development management</p>	<p>Local Govt by 06/2009</p>	<p>Proportion of councils where this is in place</p>	<p>PAS- use its case studies (in Let's Stick Together - overcoming barriers to joint LDF preparation) to illustrate the benefits of working across administrative and functional boundaries</p>
<p>Remove the barriers to partnership working</p>	<p>3. Get the vision back into planning and help to make the planning system less adversarial</p>	<p>3.1 Work openly and transparently with the Local Strategic Partnership to develop a vision for each area that links with the LDF and delivery plan</p>	<p>Local Govt, Govt Agencies, Private sector, 3rd sector by 10/2009</p>	<p>Evidence from reports on LDF examinations; joint working on AAPs - LAs and developer reps</p>	<p>PINS - identify examples of good practice including where it is aware of joint and partnership working leading to quality outcomes RDAs - commission strategic guidance and facilitate master planning to inform Strategic Development Frameworks and promote best practice</p>
		<p>3.2 Engage early in policy and spatial plan-making, and pre-design pre-application discussions to achieve consensual outcomes that integrate social, economic and environmental objectives, drawing on all available expert knowledge</p>	<p>CLG, Local Govt, Private sector, 3rd sector by 06/2009</p>	<p>Proportion of DPDs that are found to be sound; change in rate of refusal of planning permission on applications for which pre-application advice was</p>	<p>PINS - apply more proportionate processes to appeals and continue to evolve an 'inquisitorial' DPD examination process CABE - undertake workshops with local authorities and government offices – in conjunction with PAS and Government Agencies – to encourage a place-making approach in Core Strategy documents and disseminate key lessons and best practice from the</p>

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				given	workshops to a wider audience (linked to Action 1.2) BPF - maintain regular channel of contact with PINS. Work with PINS/CLG and BPF members to explore how best the business sector can engage with plan-making RSPB - where requested, provide timely pre-application advice on all major developments affecting SPAs
Provide the support to enable planning to be effective	4. Ensure that planning is viewed as a positive activity, characterised by a commitment to learning, understanding and improvement	4.1 Improve planners' skills in particular in delivering sustainable development, development finance, managing people, resources and programmes in initial and continuing professional planning education	Professions	by 6/2009	Demonstrable impact on planning practice reflected in advice to members and/or clients, reports and Appeal documents, evidence of positive media coverage RTPI - link with other Professional Institutions to improve training for planners and related professions BPF - (i) in conjunction with other stakeholders to explore the idea of establishing a training module on development economics; and (ii) investigate the feasibility of creating a system by which members are able to offer a structure internship/ secondment scheme to planning students and/or local authority planners
		4.2 Assess the most effective forms of training, support production of training materials and courses in these forms, and map their availability	Professional Institutes and HEIs?	by 3/2009	Availability of advice on the most appropriate forms of training including web-based learning materials, and evidence that this is being effective in improving skills and confidence
Devise ways of showing what planning can achieve	5. Seek out and highlight examples of best practice	5.1 Widen the scope and effectiveness of knowledge transfer to include best practice from Awards and other sources	PAS, Planning Portal, CAFE	by 10/2009	More accessible, linked sources of best practice advice (plan-making and project delivery) that have a measurable impact on planning practice PINS - educational role to be developed and enhanced ATCM - consider featuring plan-led activity in their internal awards process BPF - where research is commissioned which is relevant to planning we will consider if there are other stakeholders that we can partner with to achieve wider and more effective dissemination. For example, BPF is currently proposing to work with BURA and ATLAS to produce a best practice guide on the provision of social infrastructure
		5.2 Celebrate Planning achievement involving excellence in joined up cross-sectoral working via a new LGC Award	NPF	by 10/2009	Successful launch of the Award