

***PRESS RELEASE- embargoed  
until Friday 6 February***



## **PLANNING FORUM COMMITS TO ACTION ON CULTURE CHANGE**

“Planning should be more visionary, plans need to meet the objectives of many organisations not just local authorities, and planning needs to be at the heart of delivery” said Liz Peace, Chairman of the National Planning Forum (NPF), NPF Vice-Chair (Business) and Chief Executive of the British Property Federation in launching the Forum’s Culture Change Action Plan this week.

“We launched our ‘Manifesto for Change’ last July, but now we’ve now gone a significant step further – recognising that actions speak louder than words – by signing up to **specific actions** that we think will make a real difference to outcomes on the ground. Our work needs to help nurture and create places of which future generations can be proud.” commented Mark Southgate, NPF Vice-Chair (Government Agencies) and Director of Casework at the Planning Inspectorate, who is the convenor of the NPF working group on culture change.

Key commitments in the Action Plan include:

- Ø ensuring that civil servants across Government are fully briefed on the role and purpose of planning (Communities and Local Government)
- Ø establishing a network of Government Agency Chief Planners (Environment Agency)
- Ø providing more effective feedback on the outcomes of appeals, Development Plan Document and Regional Spatial Strategy examinations - quality as well as process (Planning Inspectorate)
- Ø linking with other Professional Institutions to improve training for planners and related professions (Royal Town Planning Institute)
- Ø setting up a Task Force to consider how planning can help respond to the recession (Association of Consultant Architects)

- Ø workshops with local authorities and Government Offices - in conjunction with Planning Advisory Service and Government Agencies - to encourage a place-making approach in Core Strategies (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment)
- Ø encouraging and supporting use of Planning Performance Agreements for major planning applications (Homes and Communities Agency/Advisory Team on Large Applications (ATLAS))
- Ø using web-sites, newsletters and events to spread best practice more effectively (Association of Town Centre Managers, British Institute of Agricultural Consultants, British Property Federation, Homes and Communities Agency/ATLAS, Natural England, Planning Advisory Service, Planning Inspectorate, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Royal Town Planning Institute)

Southgate added “All member organisations of the National Planning Forum pledge to continue to change in line with our Manifesto commitments and to undertake the individual organisation actions identified in this Action Plan. We will continue to check the impact of our Manifesto by monitoring the impact of the Action Plan and reporting on progress every six months.”

**Note for Editors:**

*1. The National Planning Forum (NPF) is the principal cross-sectoral forum focussing on planning in England. It comprises 75 members in each of the 5 sectors: Central Government Agencies, Local Government, Business, the built and land use Professions, and Non-Governmental Organisations. The NPFs mission is to “inspire planning and planners”.*

*2. The NPF’s work is directed by an Executive Board comprising representatives of each sector. The current Chairman is Liz Peace, Chief Executive of the British Property Federation and Vice-Chair (Business). Other members are: Cllr Mike Haines Teignbridge District Council, Local Government Association and Vice-Chair (Local Government); Mike Hayes, Royal Town Planning Institute and Vice-Chair (Professions); Simon Marsh, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Vice-Chair (Non-Governmental Organisations); and Mark Southgate, Planning Inspectorate and Vice-Chair (Government Agencies).*

*3. The NPF launched its ‘Manifesto for Change’ in July last year and has now developed an Action Plan that commits its members to specific actions. Work on the plan was informed by the report “Delivering Inspiring Places: the Role and Status of Planning” commissioned from Janice Morphet, with Tony Burton and Laura Hughes of IDOX plc. This report is on the NPF web-site: <http://www.natplanforum.org.uk>*

*4. The Action Plan will be available (1 page A3) from Thursday 4 February. Copies and further information can be obtained from: Kay Powell, Secretary: t: 029-20568643 or m: 07774 139 506. Background information and reports from the NPF can be accessed on the web-site: <http://www.natplanforum.org.uk>*