



planning advisory service

20 July 2017

PAS Bulletin

At the recent LGA conference the Secretary of State made clear his intention to continue with the thrust of the Housing White paper. One of the most important aspects of this for plan-makers is a new way for councils to assess their local housing requirements. We are running events helping practitioners understand fully the purpose behind this and the other updates signalled in his speech - booking is now open.

Elsewhere, you will see we have begun a new series of case studies reviewing recent local plans. Plan-making is tough and lessons learned at examination are expensive, so we all need to learn from each other about what "good" looks like. You may also be interested in our take on training planners, that we call 'The Great English Plan-Off'. And on the DM side of things we're pleased to be supporting the roll-out of the new technical guidance for brownfield registers.

You probably already know our most exciting news, which is that we have a new person joining us to head up PAS. Anna Rose (presently Director of Planning & Transport at Milton Keynes) joins us over the summer. Her wealth of experience will ensure that PAS sharpens its focus on the needs of practitioners who continue to work under enormous pressure.

We've also made some great videos of two brave planning peers – it's a new approach for us so let us know if the extra effort is worth it. Lastly, we want you to be clear that the proposed 20% increase in planning application fees is not going to happen in July, and it's anyone's guess whether it will happen this year. Watch this space.

New and noteworthy

What Good (plans) Looks Like- Birmingham

Our latest case study in our "What Good Looks Like" series is from [Birmingham City Council](#), who adopted their local plan in January 2017. These case studies review recent local plans and their Inspector's report, and provide a short commentary based on the themes of the Housing White Paper. In case you didn't catch our first case study it was from Derby City Council and [you can take a look at it here](#).

Birmingham has a big story to tell. It is the UK's 'second city' and has a young and diverse population. The city centre is a major attraction and it has a significant influence on the surrounding region. Read how they tackled the challenges of making the best use of land for huge housing numbers whilst looking to boost economic regeneration, including an innovative way of keeping the employment land supply up.

[Read the Birmingham case study](#)

[Read the Derby case study](#)

Planning peer challenge

We know we probably go on a bit about peer challenges. But they are really, really useful things. We reckon that Phil Mason is one of the best Heads of Planning around and Cornwall have just had their

second peer challenge. It's not a medicine for weak councils – it is a way of taking stock for strong councils. [Phil was kind enough to share his thoughts with us recently.](#)

Not all councils are at the right stage for a peer challenge, and they do represent a significant investment of time and energy. If you want to schedule a conversation about whether they are right for you, contact Stephen.barker@local.gov.uk

[Watch the video](#)

Swindon and their changing approach to plan-making

David Dewart at Swindon is one of our strongest peers and an all-round good egg, and he delighted our 2017 conference with an impromptu speech that reminded everyone that good planning is like sprinkling fairy dust on places.

We asked him to set out what he meant in a video post. In a 7 minute interview he talks about delivery, design, and what Swindon has learned about how to plan for growth. Remember if you want to dip your toe in the water as a peer there is an invitation in this bulletin.

[Watch the video](#)

Experiences of dealing with Shale applications

We have been working with Lancashire, North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and West Sussex County Councils to capture the experience and learning of dealing with highly controversial "fracking" applications.

The experience of the four authorities provides valuable advice to help other councils to process and determine applications, including engaging with developers, local communities and the other regulators.

[Read the case study](#)

Events

Housing White Paper event series

Following our very successful events earlier in the year, we are pleased to set up another set of events around the country. This will allow planners to follow developments in the Government's policy position in a number of important areas.

Register your interest at the venue best suited to you. We will send out more detailed agendas closer to the time.

[Book your place](#)

Brownfield Register technical guidance launch

DCLG and iStandUK have been working together to develop guidance and standards that will tell authorities all they need to know about the requirements for preparing their registers. DCLG has therefore commissioned three workshops, in London, Manchester and Bristol, with support from iNetwork & iStandUK, which are designed to support authorities as they gear up to meet these requirements.

These events are aimed at both planners, and GIS and/or data officers, with responsibility for preparing and publishing brownfield registers by December 2017.

These events are already underway, [to see if there are spaces available go to iStandUK.](#)

PAS Peers – Training the Trainers

We are training and supporting a group of experienced councillors and officers to support their peers in local government. If you've worked with PAS before or are completely new to peer work you are invited to two specially created 'train the trainer' sessions on 10th and 24th of October. In the first session, you'll find

out more about peer support and learn the key principles of successful peer-led work, and in session 2 hear you'll from colleagues and special guests about the specific planning topics you'll need to focus on.

[Sign up here](#)

Leadership Essentials Planning Programmes for 2017/18

This is [our flagship residential course](#) for planning portfolio holders, leaders, chairs and deputy leaders. It provides time and expertise to ensure that councillors are up to speed and thinking ahead. We are grateful to the LGA who sponsor these courses so they are provided at a discount to members. Our next two events are:

Decision making at planning committee: how to run a good planning committee

Thursday 7 to Friday 8 September 2017: For Planning committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs. This will include detailed information on the changes in how appeal decisions can count against a council.

Planning Reform: understanding the planning change agenda

Saturday 27 to Sunday 28 January 2018: For all senior councillors. This will review all the recent changes to the Government's policy so councillors can consider and respond to them.

These events cost £250 which includes accommodation and meals. Contact grace.collins@local.gov.uk for more information.

The great English plan-off

Are you up for planning challenge? The Planning Advisory Service is inviting talented people working in the built environment sector from across the country to team up to solve a tricky planning problem.

The "Great Plan off" starts this October in the capital. You will join a team of fellow built environment professionals to address a real planning challenge to help a council develop and implement an innovative solution. You may be tackling anything from a development site to a whole Local Plan approach. And a bit like "bake off", at the end of the day your teams will get feedback from an expert panel of judges and a winner announced. Prizes? Naturally.

Our first challenge is hosted by the London Borough of Kingston in October. They have a new economic strategy, but it doesn't have a spatial expression. How can the magic of planning enable it? How can we apply the various tools in the planning toolbox to improve the outcomes for people and places? And just how quickly can planners do this stuff?

Fun, challenging and a great learning experience, it's a great chance to develop your planning skills, exercise your creativity and meet others in the sector. Interested as a solo or with a team? Contact pas@local.gov.uk to register your interest and to receive more details.

Other news

Housing advisers programme

The LGA has announced a new programme of support for councils delivering against a housing need for their area. It provides external expertise in housing, planning and homelessness for councils to unblock schemes or make progress with programmes. More details on the [LGA website](#).

Partnerships

The LGA is developing a publication in conjunction with the British Property Federation, Federation of Master Builders, Home Builders Federation and the Planning Advisory Service to showcase effective partnership approaches to positive planning.

If you would like to showcase work you have done in your area, please contact jo.allchurch@local.gov.uk by 15 August 2017.

Hot topics on the Knowledge Hub

[Planning and Brexit](#)

[Self builds and absconded debtors](#)

[Designation crystal ball 2017](#)

[Objectors Personal Details - Planning Applications and Letters of Objection](#)

[More about the KHub here](#)

[Subscribe to our other e-bulletins](#)

Contact us

Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

Email: pas@local.gov.uk
Telephone: 020 7664 3187
Website: www.pas.gov.uk
Twitter: @pas_team

© 2017 Local Government Association | www.local.gov.uk

[Privacy policy](#)

You may update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [subscriber preferences page](#).

Powered by

GOVDELIVERY 

×

Planning Advisory Service July

2017 <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKLGA/bulletins/1ab077e>