



planning advisory service

7 September 2016

PAS Bulletin

We are pretty sure that the new government is going to want to change the planning system. We just don't know when or how.

Because the details on the latest round of reform are still tbc, we propose focussing on the unchanging core skills of planning. We have leadership events for councillors as well as skills training for less experienced planners wanting to think through how the world of planning and politics intersect. Our training is very good value and is an excellent way to keep people developing.

On the blogs Adam reflects on the enigma wrapped in a tissue of lies that is a common approach to publishing a Local Development Scheme, and Martin bangs his head (again) on the risk aversion he finds in councils. It feels a bit odd to restrict the PAS LDS guidance to subscribers only, but we need to find ways to say "thank you" to the councils that are financially supporting us and the process of making it. You are too late for the initial discounted subscription, [but you can still sign up here](#).

Staff development events

Working with councillors

This course is for planners who are beginning to work with councillors and need to understand the dynamics of politicians and the way Planning Committee works. This is an important developmental step for officers who often waste time preparing unnecessarily. Designed and delivered by councillors you will learn:

- How councillors see planning, and their role in it
- How to write reports and prepare for planning committee
- Planning policy and corporate (and political) objectives
- How to present to councillors, and the purpose of debate
- A deeper understanding of the complementary but different roles performed by officers and members.

Cost £175. [Click here for dates & venues](#).

Planning successful places

Changes to the way councils are funded mean that it's never been more important to employ planners able to work creatively and thoughtfully to make successful places. This event is a new one, open to both DM and policy people. It's a great opportunity to get out of the office and grow as practitioners.

As a result of coming to this session your staff will:

- Be challenged on new ways to articulate the value of planning and how their work improves delivery
- Get a chance to reflect on how concepts like 'vision' direct the development of places
- Improve their understanding of how councillors and developers work.

Cost £175. [Click here for dates & venues.](#)

Viability

This course is for people dealing with planning applications who need to understand the way viability works. You will gain:

- A thorough understanding of the principles of viability
- How viability works in practice for particular sites
- The perspective of developers and why they act like they do
- A legal update to make your knowledge current.

Cost £130. [Click here for dates & venues.](#)

Leadership events

Leadership Essentials

Leading Development Management Transformation & Improvement

Is your planning department as good as it can get? How to achieve a modern planning service? This session focusses on how to ensure a sustainable and cost effective planning service that meets the needs of councillors, applicants/investors, and residents.

Planning for Places; delivering places through leadership of planning

Helping councillors to use planning to produce places that deliver the wider place and social agenda of the council. This will focus on writing good plans and policies, being proactive and making sure the council drives change to benefit communities.

The Government and planning reform

Planning Changes – will they help? This course will look at the planning reforms in the Housing and Planning Act, what will change and what it means to councils and for decision making.

Cost for each session £250. [Click here for dates & more information.](#)

DM Transformation events

These events are for service heads and other people tasked with thinking about the future of providing Council planning services. There are many changes in the pipeline as well as pressures and changes on local government generally. No Council wants to be left behind, but there are risks to jumping into new approaches before thinking them through. This event will help you review your options.

At this event you will

- Hear from DCLG about some of the intentions behind the reforms
- Discuss and challenge how ideas could work in practise
- Catch up with colleagues and hear about some of the ideas being worked on across the country
- Ensure you understand the impact of ideas like devolution, competition and trading for councils.

No charge. [Click here for dates & venues.](#)

In other news

Politicians in Planning conference (PIPA 2016)

The RTPI's conference for councillors is on the 19th November, and as usual PAS will be there. For the first time councillors will be there from across the UK to learn from each other and learn how to make the most of their planning decision-making powers. The day includes several streams of events so councillors can pick topics of most relevance to their interests and experience.

More information and sign up details are on the [RTPI's website](#).

One Public Estate Programme: Phase Five Funding Round Now Open!

Phase Five of the One Public Estate (OPE) programme has now been launched, giving councils the opportunity to apply for up to £500,000 to support delivery of ambitious property-based initiatives. The programme provides expert support and funding to deliver ambitious cross-public sector property-based projects that boost local growth, deliver more customer-integrated services, generate capital receipts and reduce running costs. The prospectus containing details of how to apply is now available [online](#). For support and advice contact your [OPE Regional Team](#).

For thought

As PAS start another round of Development Management support to councils, our improvement guru Martin Hutchings contemplates the major issues slowing down planning applications.

[Read the blog](#)

Adam Dodgshon talks LDS in his blog this month and asks why do we have to make it so hard for ourselves?

[Read the blog](#)

Hot topics on the Knowledge Hub

We've listed a few of the most popular topics on the Knowledge Hub this month awaiting your input (you may have to be signed in to view).

[Neighbourhood Plan designations/ allocations and the Policies Map](#)

[Examples of LPAs undertaking planning consultancy work](#)

[New designation for non majors](#)

More about the KHub [here](#)

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