



Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

Meeting Notes of the Planning Sub-Group

28 February 2023
11:00am to 12:30pm

Held on Microsoft Teams

Present		
Paul Barnard (Chair) Tessa Bond Joe Jenkinson Hannah Bartram Georgina Brightwell Conrad Smewing (Presenter) Stacey Wylie Viv Evans	Neil McBride Martin Wells Mike Garrity Anna Rose Matthew Jericho Pam Neal Caroline Sutton	Lucy Hargreaves (Presenter) Andy Coupe Barry Wyatt Charlotte Rushmere Laura McCulloch Margaret Read (Presenter) Joanna Stanton (note taker) Mark Worringham
Apologies		
Sarah McLaughlin, Colin Haigh, Tom Marchant, Adam Birchall, Samantha Campbell, Ian Achurch, Louise Wood, Alison Ives, James Crosbie, Rob Harbour, Helen Leach, Jan Feeney, Jodie Yandall, Rob Murfin		

Item	Notes	Actions
1	Welcome and introductions Apologies are as stated above.	N/A
2	Actions and minutes from the previous meeting The previous meeting was held on 24 January 2023. Actions: Not applicable	N/A
3	Presentation by Conrad Smewing, Director of Planning, DLUHC Paul introduced Conrad Smewing, new Director of Planning DLUHC Presentation from Conrad Smewing <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provided a general overview of consultation position (PDRs and Planning consultations)- Lucy Hargreaves to talk through further- 3 'blocks' of activity1. NPPF consultation- split into 2 phases-	

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	<p>a. Consultation on the changes around local housing needs attached to the passage of the levelling up and regeneration bill through the Commons at end last year- consistent response on what is likely to happen as a result of those changes</p> <p>Interested to hear views of the group on what they think of those changes and what is likely to happen</p> <p>b. Broader consultation on number of areas in the NPPF (consultation closes 11.59pm on 2nd March 2023). Come back to later in the year and open opportunity to feed in views. High on agenda of Ministers 'here' Careful consideration.</p> <p>2. National Infrastructure action plan came out last week</p> <p>3. Measures in Levelling Up Bill/Infrastructure Levy/Planning Fees and supporting work and details attached</p> <p>Levelling up Bill- Reached House of Lords committee stage last week- huge bill, progressing reasonably slowly. Not reached any planning points yet</p> <p>Lords are reasonably looking for more detail/background about lots of measures in the bill in particular Infrastructure Levy, Environmental Outcome report and planning fees</p> <p>Series of consultations/extra detail the teams here are currently producing on before discussion of those measures in the Lords</p> <p>Update from Lucy Hargreaves</p> <p>This morning published fees consultation- consultation closes on 25/4/23.</p> <p>Discussed in the past. Suggestions in there:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 35% increase in mayor applications - 25% increase all others - Proposal doubling retrospectively fees in it. <p>Important: Proposal introduction to indexation fees for first time- NCIP fees are indexed, but currently not T CPA fees</p> <p>Question around ringfencing of planning fees- sectors response to that and explore in consultation</p> <p>Consultation is due to close on 25th April 2023 and move forward regulations ASAP after that</p> <p>Implementation date- Fee regulations are affirmative so need to go through both House of Commons and House of Lords- takes longer but going to move forward as soon as we can and hope for Summer 2023</p> <p>Consultation also contains performance of Local Planning Authorities and how best to measure performance and effective performance measurements can be put into place (end to end process, customer satisfaction) - revisit at another meeting with a general discussion</p> <p>Action: Anyone from individual authorities who would like to be included in a more detailed discussion to let Lucy know</p> <p>Published today PDR consultation looks at some relatively modest changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solar- should they be allowed on flat roofs through PDR, should there be restrictions on solar panels in conservation areas? Proposal to add solar canopies to parking bays? Use PDR to enable those rather than detailed planning applications <p>Other content in it is:</p>	<p>All</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temporary campsites PDR- evolution of a Covid-19 PDR which allowed for temporary use of land- lot of feedback one element well used was for small business to operate small scale campsites over summer to support rural economy. - Electric vehicle charging points- relatively minor change - Temporary film studios- as high-end films developed demand is bigger/higher and for longer. Proposal to extend PDR. Won't affect all areas, but support filmmaking industry - Closing date 25th April 2023 <p>For this group fee and performance elements good to pick up on going forward</p> <p>Action: Lucy to share link to document in chat</p> <p>Conrad keen to hear views from group on any of those aspects and happy to take questions</p> <p>Discussion: Levelling up and Regeneration Bill and passage through Houses of Parliament- still expecting it to be accepted by May? Still predicted timeframe? Response: Still on target – hard deadline of June needs to get it through by then so devolution aspects of bill can be in place- elections in combined authorities can take place on time- early stage of Lord Committee took slightly longer than hoped</p> <p>Consultation seemed to partly recognise challenges around standard methodology and use of 2014 projections as move forward to new Local Plan process- but concluded vaguely that would be subject of further consultation- useful to get commentary on that.</p> <p>DLUHC is Looking to incentivise authorities to move to new style local plans- needs to be looked at- 15 authorities in that camp. Timescales consultations says for standard methodology.</p> <p>Response: Transition arrangements- affecting authorities in different ways- exactly what consultations are for. Not a clear response for question. Focus on NPPF changes- proposed package of the bill. Have to return to longer term changes at a later point</p> <p>Levy consultation out soon, followed by Environmental outcome report etc NPPF/PDR/Planning Fees report- more to come quickly Proposal short-term lets in planning system- due Summer 2023 Noted timeframe is not ideal. Key ones are emerging currently</p> <p>Action: Be useful to have a list of what is happening and rough dates</p> <p>DEFRA's intention to create land use framework- how are all systems integrate and come together. Landuse framework should determine how they all work together- what's not clear is understand context of land use framework and</p>	<p>LH</p> <p>CS/LH</p>

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	<p>works also side Local Plans, Local Nature Recovery, BNG etc Are you engaging on DEFRA on that?</p> <p>Conrad response: Confirmed- Lot of engagement between DLUHC and DEFRA- needs to continue for joined up approach</p> <p>2 consultations published today- should this group respond to? Paul Barnard: Yes- respond on fees one- ADEPT should respond</p> <p>Action: Volunteer to co-ordinate for ADEPT group PDR- each authority to deal with individually</p> <p>Action: check with Chair of Sustainable Growth Board (next meeting 25th March 2023)</p> <p>Conrad and Lucy thanked for input</p>	<p>All</p> <p>PB</p>
4	<p>Presentation by Margaret Read, NIC</p> <p>Presentation from Margaret read, National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) Thanked for joining early- acknowledged questions were shared before session for colleagues to look at.</p> <p>Commissioned by Chancellor to look at speeding up the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure projects – ones that go through the development consent order process rather than through TCPA process Specifically look at NSIP's and how kept up to date in the long term In order to do so set out number of things for Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of NCIPs likely to come forward the next few years so can think about resourcing PINS properly and Local Authorities etc - Set out the cost of delay-not cost free from Government perspective, but feels like it is in terms of national policy statements <p>In course of work, have engaged with lots of stakeholders and been thinking about areas such as how can we make national policies statements more spacious so they can fit better into Local Planning system.</p> <p>Also thinking about Strategic Environmental mitigation- how enabling that could help to speed up process and community benefit and how could assist Questions are designed to try and get input from group on these topics. If have content that can 't be shared today contact Margaret directly.</p> <p>Action Margaret to add her email address to the chat</p> <p>Discussion Finding location and geography NCIPs growing and engagement in them in parallel- not new burden for Local Authority but spending a lot of resource engaging with project promoters on use of PPA various degrees of success and unable to focus on community benefits without any guidance from Government. Absence of timeline what would be advised?</p>	<p>MR</p>

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	<p>Response: Interesting to hear situation you are in, no definite answer. Needs to be better arrangements for community benefits and Local Authority resources to job properly to be able to engage and do jobs properly Want to flag where pipeline is coming- so at last plan more efficiently</p> <p>Suggested Charlotte to add views into response Margaret is seeking</p> <p>Engage 1:2:1 level explores in more details range of questions within content Margaret presented</p> <p>Action: Add contact details to chat Margaret to make contact</p> <p>Last 14 months dealing with 14 NCIPs on different scales- How get better insight into projects coming forward- difference management/better to deal with if insight to allow more time to prepare</p> <p>Response: Heard before some communities have lots of NCIPs in one small space from different sectors and no engagement between sectors. Thinking about for recommendations to Government</p> <p>How to assist Local Planning authorities to get a pipeline</p> <p>Response: PINS generally know what is coming- they told at a relatively early stage- can't share information, but need a way to share pipeline with people who need to know- Local Authorities, strategy consultees and a need for engagement from developers optioneering stage</p> <p>Margaret thanked for her time and reaching out. Use group again for further discussions</p>	<p>Andy Coupe</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>ADEPT Draft NPPF Response</p> <p>Draft of response to NPPF consultation circulated a few days ago- response deadline is 11:59pm on 2nd March 2023.</p> <p>It attempts to strike a balance between supporting proposals and raising some detail not being there. This is an ADEPT response rather than from individual authorities. Looking for endorsement of group for submission with any changes got now as being submitted before Thursday deadline.</p> <p>Response is based upon Plymouth's City Council's response, along with comprehensive changes from Luton Borough Council.</p> <p>Concerns were raised around housing delivery and how authorities bring that forward. May encourage authorities to possibly delay their Local Plan when they could move things forward?</p> <p>Timescale concerns/evidence base as well- if timescales are vague makes it difficult for authorities. Sensible to have clear guidance around evidence requirements- have as structured basis that gets reviewed all the time- directory of evidence all local authorities are using and maintaining-having Planning</p>	

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	<p>Inspector engaged in that – helpful to hear from an Inspectors POV and how manage examination process</p> <p>Action: Group to have 1 final read through draft to reflect todays conversation- email any comments to Martin by COP today (28/02/23)</p> <p>Action: Martin Wells to submit on behalf of ADEPT before 11:59pm on Thursday 2nd March 2023</p> <p>Hannah Bartram checked Martin was ok to submit on behalf of ADEPT. Martin confirmed he was.</p> <p>Action: Hannah Bartram to check draft document to ensure text complies to ADEPT guidelines</p>	<p>All</p> <p>MW</p> <p>HB</p>
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>Hannah Bartram – Can register and buy tickets for ADEPT Conference and enter President awards. Conference/awards is on 20th May 2023 at 1 George Street, London. Further information is available on the ADEPT website.</p>	N/A
7	<p>Confirm date of next meeting</p> <p>28 March 2023 (MS Teams)</p>	