



Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

Meeting Notes of the Planning Sub-Group

27th June 2023, 11am

Held on Microsoft Teams

Present

Paul Barnard (Chair), Anna Rose, Margaret Baddeley, James Chadwick, David Holloway, Georgina Bright, Hannah Bartram, Jonathan Smith, Gemma MacDonald, Matthew Jericho, Rachael Ferry-Jones, Stacey Wylie, Caroline Sutton, Martin Wells.

Apologies

Colin Haigh, Sarah McLaughlin, Tom Marchant, Joe Jenkinson, Laura McCulloch, Samantha Campbell, Helen Leach, Adam Birchall, Ian Achurch, Louise Wood, Sally Gill, Pam Neal, James Crosbie, Rob Harbour, Jan Feeney, Lucy Hargreaves, Rob Murfin, Mike Garrity.

| Item | Notes | Actions |
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| 1 | Welcome and introductions Apologies are as stated above. | |
| 2 | Actions and minutes from the previous meeting The previous meeting was held on 23 May 2023. Actions: None | |
| 3 | Planning Capability and Capacity Working Group (David Waterhouse) David Waterhouse did a brief verbal update. The following summarises the main areas that have come out of the Planning White Paper: <u>Direct support for LPAs (all tiers)</u> Intention is to launch the Planning Skills Delivery Fund. Aim to tackle back log in dealing with planning applications. Looking at design of fund. Hoping to launch it fairly soon. Funding will be over the net two years. Also funded Public Practice to be rolled out more widely. <u>Education (new entrants into the market)</u> | |

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| | <p>Bringing in new graduates, bursary programme (£2,000-£5,000). Fast track system administered by the LGA to bring newly qualified planners into the public sector.</p> <p><u>What skills and capabilities can be delivered</u> Looking at skills gaps and what can be delivered. POS is leading this piece of work. SoS is keen on this work and is keen to drive it forward. More targeted funding could be included in the autumn statement.</p> <p>Government will be launching a national skills and capability survey which will be starting next week and will be sent to all local authorities. Results will inform treasury spending in the sector. Alice Dunn will be taking the lead on this survey.</p> <p>Planning fees: review is likely to be coming out super shortly.</p> <p>Importance of selling the benefits of being a planner in the public sector.</p> | |
| <p>4</p> <p>Update of the Regeneration and Levelling Up Bill (Michael Bingham-MHCLG)</p> | <p>Michael Bingham from DLUHC did a brief verbal update on the progress of the bill. These three distinct areas primarily came out of Planning White Paper:</p> <p>Timetable for the bill has been extended. Royal assent is still anticipated in this parliament, although not this side of summer. 600 amendments were made in the House of Lords.</p> <p>Not all measures will come into effect immediately. Many aspects of the bill will require secondary legislation i.e. plan making will need secondary legislation.</p> <p>Draft measures will also need to be brought in for the proposed national development management policies.</p> <p>There will be further wide range of amendments at the report stage. This is after the committee stage and will be more focussed types of amendments. Traditionally at committee stage, government doesn't normally accept any amendments. Report stage will sit on 11, 13, 18 and 20 July, prior to summer recess.</p> <p>Still talking to DEFRA on the LNRS. Reluctant to make this binding on LPAs.</p> <p>Reforms have moved on from the 2020 white paper. More in now a hybrid model, as partly with a view of introducing more speed and certainty (i.e. digital technology).</p> <p>A further update was requested later in the year.</p> <p>A consultation in amendments to local plan and neighbourhood plan making is due to commence later this year.</p> | |
| <p>5</p> <p>Round Table</p> | <p>Caroline Sutton-Environment Agency. Leads on BNG and LNRS and on engagement in planning reform. Emphasised that Caroline is happy to discuss these areas with anyone outside of these meetings.</p> | <p>DD</p> |

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| | | <p>Georgina Brightwell-LGA. Requested that the Infrastructure Levy is not introduced. Also emphasised lack of engagement with RTPi.</p> <p>Discussion also centred around reviewing local plans in the light of transitional arrangements.</p> | |
| 6 | <p>Confirm date of next meeting</p> | <p>25th July 2023 at 11am (MS Teams)</p> | |