



Notes on Neighbourhood Planning

Welcome to the third edition of *Notes on Neighbourhood Planning* - updates from the team in DCLG.

We use the updates to let you know what we are up to, how we can help you, and how your varied and exciting work on the ground fits with the national picture. For general information on neighbourhood planning go to:



“Jump on the bandwagon and get yourself a neighbourhood plan”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/giving-communities-more-power-in-planning-local-development/>

Community Infrastructure Levy

Planning Minister, Nick Boles, gave an important speech on ‘Housing the Next Generation’ on 10 January.

The speech included the announcement that local planning authorities operating the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will pass on 25% of the money raised from development within a neighbourhood plan area to the community itself, so that you can decide how the money is spent. To qualify, you need to have a neighbourhood plan that has been through referendum and brought into force, and your local authority needs to have introduced CIL.

Parish and town councils will receive the money directly. In areas without a parish council, the local authority must agree with the local community how to spend the money. Communities that do not have a neighbourhood plan will receive 15% of CIL receipts (subject to a cap). The Localism Act sets out what neighbourhood CIL can be spent on: the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure - or anything else that is concerned with addressing demands that development places on an area. Further details on the operation of neighbourhood CIL will be set out in



secondary legislation which the Government intends to bring into force in April 2013.

This is a significant development in the evolution of neighbourhood planning. Nick Boles: “By undertaking a neighbourhood plan that makes space for new development, communities can secure revenues to make the community more attractive for everyone.” The Minister used his speech to highlight the progress being made on the ground with over 300 localities now pursuing a neighbourhood plan.

You can read the [speech](#) in full, watch it on [YouTube](#) or read the [announcement](#).

Funding and Support

Local planning authorities have a legal duty to provide advice and assistance to qualifying bodies involved in neighbourhood planning. They are also responsible for organising examinations and running referendums.

On 18 December DCLG announced changes to the multi-million fund to help councils ensure their communities are able to finalise their neighbourhood plans. As before, local authorities can apply for grants of up to £30,000 for each scheme to help pay for the costs of getting plans in place. Under the new arrangements £5,000 is available at area designation; £5,000 at submission for publicity and examination; and £20,000 following successful examination. The cap on the number of payments made when authorities designate an area for neighbourhood planning has been raised from four areas to ten for the rest of this financial year and to 20 in 2013/14. Read more via the [announcement](#) and the [letter and Q&A](#) to local authorities.

Meanwhile the tender period for bids to run the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning Programme in 2013-15 has now closed. The programme will include direct, hands-on support and grants of up to £7,000 to communities preparing a neighbourhood plan. We will be able to tell you about the outcome next time.

Networking Neighbourhoods

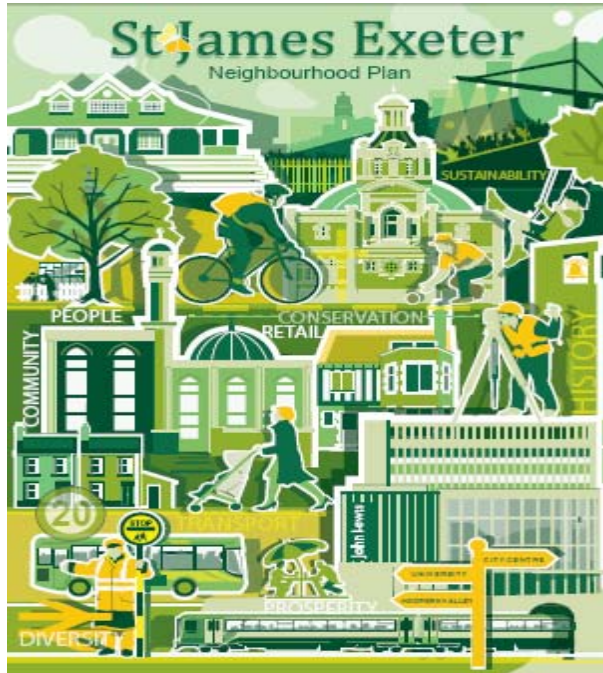
DCLG will be hosting further networking and learning events on 28 March and 30 April at Eland House in London. To maximise benefits for those attending, we want to ensure that everyone is at a similar stage. For March, we will be focussing on areas that have a draft plan, or have draft policies that they have begun to put into a plan. We will contact those areas that we are aware of, but if you are interested in attending, please get in touch with [Jenny Frew](#) giving a little information about the stage your group has reached.



Plans, Plans, Plans

The first ever neighbourhood plan referendum will take place in Upper Eden, Cumbria, on 7 March. You can read the examiner's [report](#) on the draft plan, also the first ever of its kind.

The number of areas progressing towards having a plan in place continues to grow. Recent consultations include: [Cringleford](#), [Slaugham](#), [Allendale](#) and [Kirdford](#). You can find links to all previously published plans in [Edition Two](#). Meanwhile [Thame](#) and [Exeter St James](#) plans have now proceeded to the publicity and examination stage.



Neighbourhood Planning Online

We highlighted some of the online activity about neighbourhood planning in [Edition Two](#). This continues to grow, here are more examples you may want to take a look at¹:

The Woodland Trust has produced an [online guide](#) to the benefits trees bring to a neighbourhood and how you can promote them within your plan. If you have any queries contact: victoriabankesprice@woodlandtrust.org.uk

[Communityplanning.net](#) provides an overview of different methods of community planning including neighbourhood planning.

Please get in touch if you have other examples you would like to share.

Fran Roberts from DCLG digital team has also come up with some handy tips to engage your community via your website. These will appear in the next edition of the Planning Aid e-bulletin [Up Front](#).

Community Rights

You may remember the piece on neighbourhood planning and community rights in [Edition Two](#). Like neighbourhood planning, these rights give

¹DCLG is not responsible for the content of external sites. Inclusion of links here should not be read as endorsement of any of the advice contained on external sites.



communities the chance to take more control over their future, so we thought you might be interested in hearing about latest developments and how you can find out more about support and funding.

Community Right to Bid gives communities a fair chance to bid to buy land or buildings that are important to them, should those assets come on the market. Since asset listing began in December 2012, over 100 assets have been registered by neighbourhoods. These cannot now be sold without the community knowing about it. Examples range from village halls to Hastings Pier. To find out more, see: www.mycommunityrights.org.uk/case-study/right-to-bid/

Community Right to Challenge gives community groups the right to express an interest in running local services, if they believe they can deliver them differently and better. DCLG is working closely with 14 organisations that are particularly keen to run local services. Ventnor Town Council recently exercised challenge to take over the running of car parking in their area. For examples and more information: www.mycommunityrights.org.uk/community-right-to-challenge/

The DCLG team

Our team brings together planning expertise with experience in decentralisation and communities work. Contact us if you feel there are ways in which we can help you out or there is information we can provide.² *We are particularly interested in hearing from you if you are approaching critical junctures in developing your plans and seeing them through to completion.* Most importantly, pass this bulletin on. In a localist world we only have your details if you let us have them.

For all the contact details of the team, see Edition Two. Alternatively, email us using the address at the bottom of the page or you may find it easier to contact Susan Peart (030 3444 1651) or Kate Thompson (030 3444 1241). They will be happy to put you in touch with the best person to deal with your query.

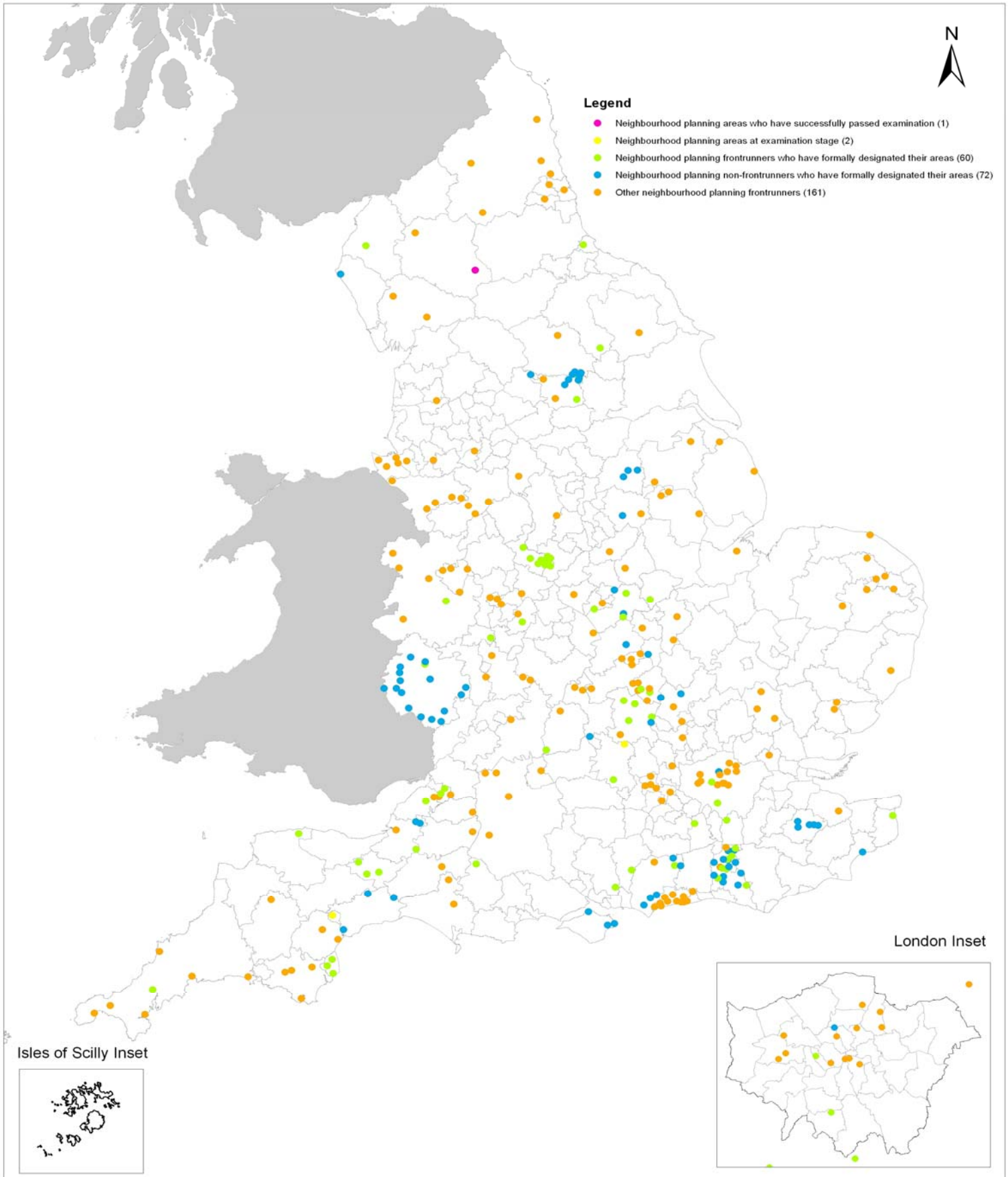
We continue to get out and about, recently visiting leading communities around the country, and their local planning authorities. Our thanks to all of those who have hosted us so far. We are very keen to accept invitations to attend or take part in events that you may be holding in your area to promote neighbourhood planning.

Overleaf you will find a map showing designated areas for neighbourhood planning across the country and the stages they have reached. Please get in touch if you want to know more about other plans near you at the email address below.³

² *The assistance the team provides is to help local planning authorities and qualifying bodies through a new process. It is not meant to be a substitute for your own professional or legal advice.*

³ *This map is primarily based on informal data sources and internet monitoring*





Produced by the Decentralisation and Neighbourhood Planning Team, DCLG

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Data Sources:
OS Boundary Line

