



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

NOTES ON #neighbourhoodplanning

November 2014
Edition Eleven

Greater support for neighbourhood planning

Over 1,000 communities nation-wide have begun preparing a neighbourhood plan, and the Department for Communities and Local Government, along with contractors Locality and RTPi, has supported more than 700 of them to progress. To build on this success, we are delivering a range of new funding and support measures.

To ensure groups have enough money right now, we have made available £1 million of grants for this financial year. Following this, groups will be able to take advantage of a £22.5 million funding package for 2015-18, beginning next April. This is a 50% increase on the previous funding package.

Local Authorities will also be able to take advantage of a new £12m funding pot to help them in their duty to support neighbourhood plans. Councils can claim up to £100,000 a year to help their communities start a plan, with an additional £25,000 for plans that pass examination.

A new pot of £100,000 has been made available for any enthusiastic and knowledgeable groups to host Workshops to inform and inspire new communities to begin creating a neighbourhood plan.

The process will be made easier with the introduction of a new suite of tools and templates being launched at the end of the year that will provide a more efficient way for groups to write policies and produce plans.

For more on all the above, please see: <http://ow.ly/DCDtk>

Referendum news

Since the last edition of Notes on Neighbourhood Planning, Littlehampton, Winsford, Bersted, Yapton and Chaddeley Corbett have all achieved positive results in public votes on their neighbourhood plans. This takes the total of plans that have passed referendum to 34.

The referendum of 23rd October in Winsford, saw the largest successful plan yet, catering to a population of over 30,000. It also includes the largest allocation of new homes: 3,362.

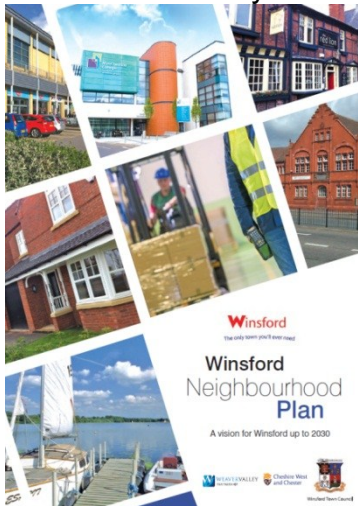
Please share this and other editions of Notes

#neighbourhoodplanning

Referendum results were:

- Winsford – 69%
- Littlehampton – 86%
- Chaddesley Corbett – 81%
- Bersted – 91%
- Yapton – 94%

There are a further five referendums scheduled in the coming months, and eight more with a date yet to be set



User experience of neighbourhood planning - research

In May and June this year, academics from the universities of Reading and Sheffield surveyed 120 people and six focus groups about their experiences of neighbourhood planning. The answers helped design the new support outlined above, ensuring that solutions were provided to the real problems that communities encountered.

The findings from the research were both cheering and enlightening. It was found that over 90% of respondents found the process of neighbourhood planning had been a positive one, and most felt that it had proved to be what their group expected and fulfilled their initial goals.

For many, these initial goals had been to reinvigorate the local area and to protect its desirable characteristics. 68% said that they wanted to take part in neighbourhood planning to have a greater say in planning and development in their own areas and to help shape a future vision of the neighbourhood.

The research also highlighted a number of areas in need of improvement, or where further support could be provided. Although over 82% of respondents had been able to access the skills and resources needed, more could be done.

Please share this and other editions of Notes

#neighbourhoodplanning

In particular, respondents highlighted the need for greater guidance on the process and help in the form of tools and templates that would make the process more accessible, faster and easier. It is in response to these findings that the Government has launched the new support package outlined on the front page.

The full report can be viewed at: <http://ow.ly/Dlw3T>

Spotlight on Leeds

Leeds has a diverse range of 36 communities preparing neighbourhood plans, from small parishes such as Walton (population 212) to market towns like Otley (population 14,124), as well as a number of inner-urban areas such as Kirkstall and Headingley.

Extensive support networks exist for communities looking to make a plan. The Leeds Neighbourhood Planning Agreement sets out the role and responsibilities of the Council, qualifying body and support organisations. There is also a city-wide steering group made up of Council service areas, Re'new Leeds, Leeds Tenants Federation, Leeds Metropolitan University, Voluntary Action Leeds, Planning Aid and Leeds Civic Trust. The Steering Group helps to coordinate, monitor and advise on links to other services and wider objectives.

The Council has commissioned Re'new Leeds to prepare Housing Market Assessments in areas where significant growth may take place, and the Leeds Core Strategy is expected to be adopted in November, proposing 70,000 new homes. Identifying sites for housing (as well as employment, retail and green space) will be something neighbourhood plans can contribute to.



An event for neighbourhood planners held in July

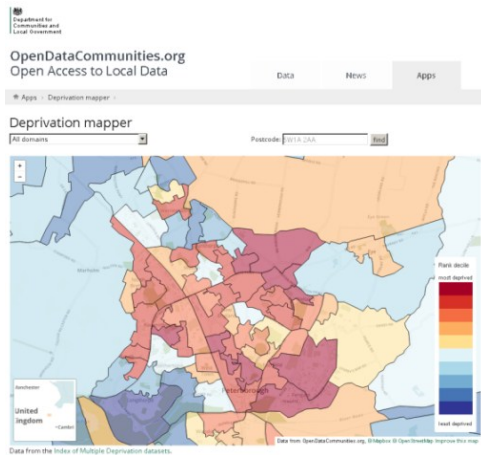
To encourage uptake of neighbourhood planning, links have been made with local universities to ensure student support, and in July a successful event was held for inner-city communities, which was also attended by representatives from Newcastle, Manchester and Exeter.

The first pre-submission consultation in Leeds has now taken place on the draft Linton plan, and to find out more about neighbourhood planning activity in Leeds, visit: <http://ow.ly/DBVc1>

Ian MacKay – Leeds City Council

Digital – Evidence base mapping tools

Building the evidence base for a plan's policies is an important process. A range of free online mapping tools can provide an excellent starting point to discussions about policy priorities.



Good examples of such resources include DCLG's open data mapping tools, which include visualisations of such indices as wellbeing or deprivation in an area.

<http://ow.ly/D18QB>

Similarly, the Office for National Statistics has a range of interactive tools available for you to view everything from commuting patterns to crime statistics: <http://ow.ly/D18YX>

The data that government departments collect is being mapped by other organisations too. University College London's Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis has produced numerous tools for understanding your local area.

Luminocity 3D maps the 'social, economic and environmental performance of cities in Great Britain.' (<http://ow.ly/D196t>)

Data Shine maps the Census onto buildings across the country. In inner city areas the map can be zoomed in to display rows of houses: <http://ow.ly/D19b2>

Finally, see overleaf for a map of the 1,200+ neighbourhood planning designations across England.

Locality – Writing Planning Policies

In September, Locality released a new guide to writing planning policies for neighbourhood plans. It contains real plan examples and worksheets.

'Planning jargon can seem like a foreign language so this guide shows how to write planning policies which will address the issues that matter to your neighbourhood.'

Tony Burton

You can find the *Writing Planning Policies* guide here: <http://ow.ly/D1buX>

The DCLG Team¹

Please do share this content, but remember we are not responsible for content on external sites.

Previous editions of 'Notes' can be found at: <http://ow.ly/zYNO4>

Email: Decentralisation@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Twitter: @CommunitiesUK

¹ The team provides help to local planning authorities and qualifying bodies through a new process. This is not a substitute for your own professional or legal advice.

Neighbourhood Planning Sept. 2014

