



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

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community, opportunity, prosperity

# The importance of Local Plans

*National Planning Forum, 11 September 2013*



## Central to Localism

- *‘At the heart of the Localism Act is the idea that control is gained from having a plan. A plan that fulfils the criteria of the national planning policy framework puts those with the plan in charge...’ [Nick Boles, Westminster Hall, 17 July]*
- *Planning law requires that applications for permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.*

## Key to implementing policy

- *‘Localism means control over how the fundamental needs of the people who elect the authorities and reside in their communities are met; it is not about deciding whether the needs will be met.’ [Nick Boles, Westminster Hall, 17 July]*
- *Local Plans must take into account, and be consistent with, the National Planning Policy Framework (including planning to meet objectively assessed needs)*



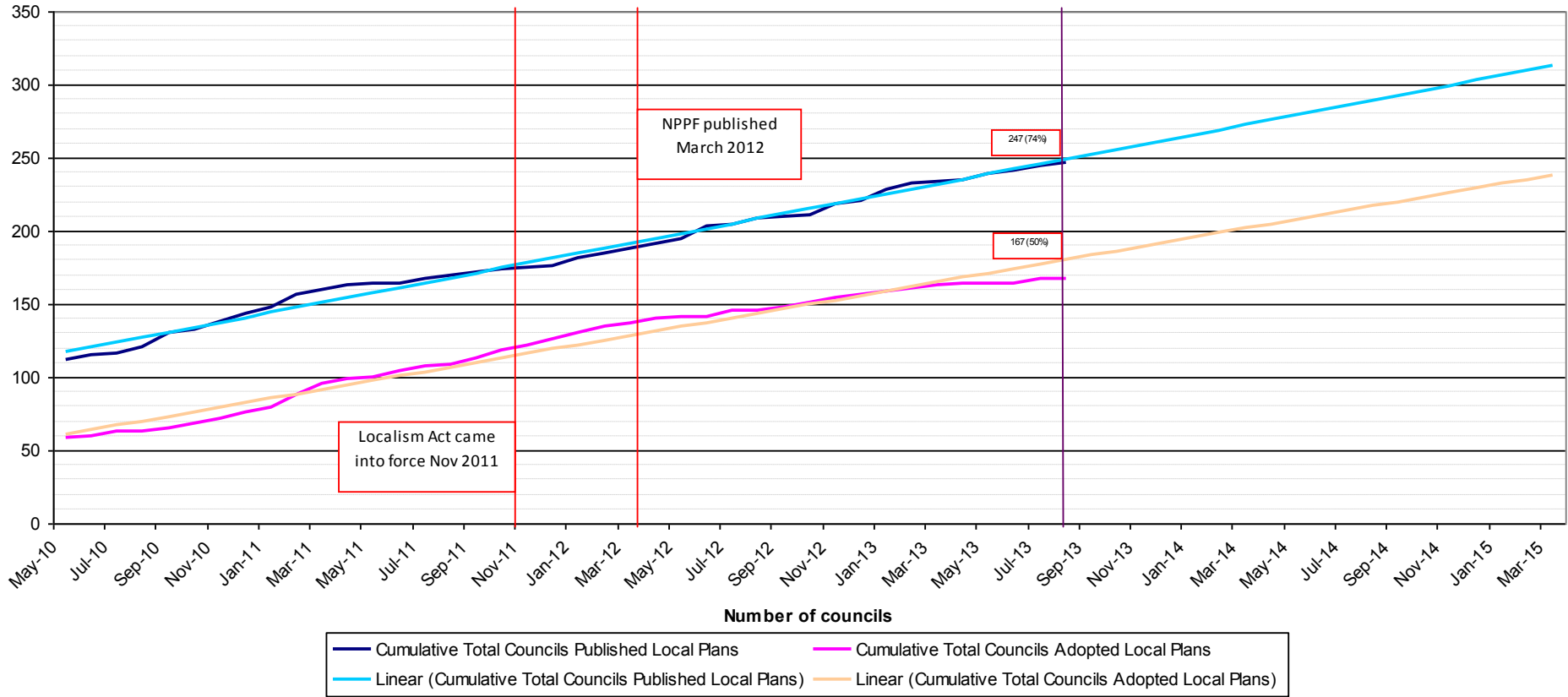
# Changes to Plan-making procedures

## *Localism Act 2011 & Local Plan Regulations 2012*

- *Revoked Regional Strategies to support local decision-making;*
- *Established the Duty to Cooperate between authorities and specified bodies;*
- *Amended the examination procedure so the Inspector may only recommend modifications to Local Plans if requested to do so;*
- *Enabled Local Planning Authorities to withdraw a Local Plan at any point after submission for examination and before adoption;*
- *Amended Local Development Scheme and Monitoring Report provisions to support localism and ensure transparency;*
- *Made provision for Neighbourhood Plans and Community Right to Build.*



Progress of Local Plan publications and adoptions: May 2010 - August 2013 with expected publications and adoptions to Mar 2015



## Progress of Local Plan preparation (September 2013)



## Trends and support

- Supporting progress towards getting Local Plans in place a key Departmental priority.
- Working closely with the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Advisory Service to ensure that support to Local Planning Authorities is coordinated and targeted to where it is most needed and effective.
- This work takes account of the spatial dynamics of Local Plan progress, and integrates with work supporting the Duty to Cooperate in practice