



National Planning Forum
Inspiring planning

National Planning Forum: Inspiring planning

MANIFESTO FOR CHANGE

Culture change is not about seeking short term results but rather investing in securing big change over the long term - Achieving Culture Change: A Policy Framework, Cabinet Office Strategy Unit, January 2008

1. Since 2000 planning in England has undergone substantial change. It is now crucial to securing sustainable development and communities – it is about securing sustainable outcomes. To do this, planning needs to be more visionary – producing spatial plans that meet the objectives and actions of many organisations working in an area, not just those of the local authority. Planning needs to be at the heart of delivery if it is to secure the long term economic, social and environmental progress of every area for the benefit of its people.
2. Government has sought to drive these changes through new legislation and policy. But such far-reaching change cannot be delivered by these mechanisms alone. Fundamentally, this is a different kind of planning. Planners, and all those involved in planning, need to be ready to change to ensure that this new system works effectively. We all need to learn new skills and do things differently.
3. The National Planning Forum (NPF) involves a wide range of interests in planning in England - Central Government Agencies, Local Government, Business, the built and land use Professions, and Non-Governmental Organisations. We believe that this task is ours. As planners we must rise to the challenge, positively embracing the central role being given to planning in managing change. In doing so we must change ourselves.
4. Signing up to this Manifesto is only the first step. Actions speak louder than words, so the NPF will go on to produce specific actions for each sector to help planning deliver more sustainable and inspiring places. The resulting Action Plan will help us to nurture and create places of which future generations can be proud.
5. To ensure that action happens on the ground, the NPF will monitor the effect of the Manifesto actions set out overleaf, and report on progress on a six monthly basis.

6. Culture change is about changing the way we work. This Manifesto commits NPF members to:

Understand and promote the role that planning plays in place-shaping

ACTION 1: Improve awareness by all stakeholders of the new approach to planning and their role in it

Appreciate the complexity of planning, but simplify its procedures

ACTION 2: Demystify planning and link it to corporate policy and programmes to ensure joined-up policy and delivery

Remove the barriers to partnership working

ACTION 3: Get the vision back into planning and help to make the planning system less adversarial

Provide the support to enable planning to be effective

ACTION 4: Ensure that planning is viewed as a positive activity, characterised by a commitment to learning, understanding and improvement

Devise ways of showing what planning can achieve

ACTION 5: Seek out and highlight examples of good practice

Signed for the National Planning Forum July 2008 by:

Mark Southgate, Head of Planning and Environmental Assessment, Environment Agency
National Planning Forum Chair representing Government Agencies



Councillor Paul Bettison, Chairman of the Local Government Association Environment Board, Leader Bracknell Forest Council
National Planning Forum Vice-Chair representing Local Government



Mike Hayes Chief Executive of West Northamptonshire Development Corporation, and Royal Town Planning Institute
National Planning Forum Vice-Chair representing the Professions



Simon Marsh Head of Planning and Regional Policy, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
National Planning Forum Vice-Chair representing Non-Governmental Organisations



Liz Peace, Chief Executive of the British Property Federation
National Planning Forum Vice-Chair representing Business

