



The Planning Inspectorate
Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

The examination of Local Plans

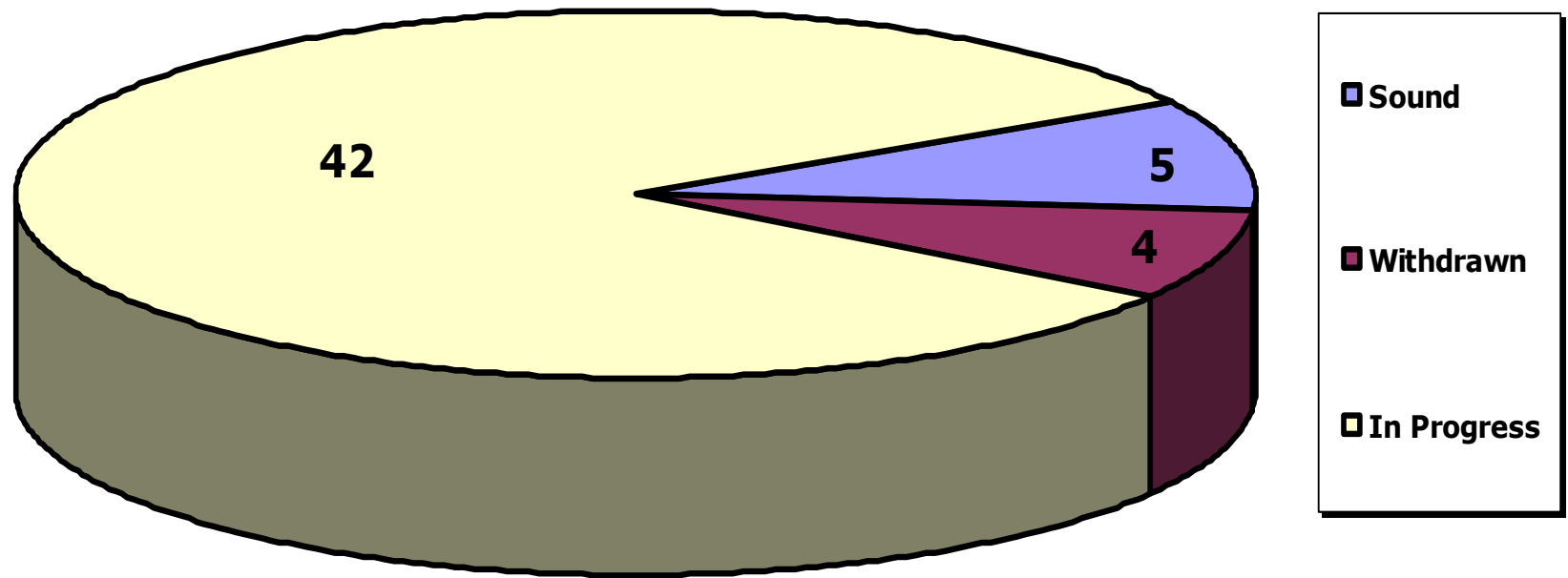
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National Planning Forum

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The Number of Core Strategy/Local Plans received in PINS since NPPF



Other Plans e.g. Site Allocations, Area Action Plans, Development Management and Minerals & Waste

- 32 found sound
- 34 in progress



Overview

100 new plans anticipated for examination in 2013-2014 – an upward trend;

Currently 80 plan examinations in progress and 58 plans published. Inspectors often examining 2 to 3 plans concurrently.

Some examinations proving to be quite long (South Gloucestershire s over 2 years).

1 in 8 examinations are currently suspended normally due to insufficiently robust evidence to support the proposed strategy;



Evidence-based, positive plans

Evidence-based, positive plans – the expectation for plans submitted for examination;

Clear message from PINS - focus on gathering key evidence in support of strategic priorities;

Some good practice emerging e.g. jointly commissioned SHMAs, infrastructure/investment plans;

But still too many cases of undue reliance on dated evidence e.g. evidence underpinning RS; Site Allocations plans based on strategic requirement from dated Core Strategies

Plans withdrawn (e.g. Salford, Hull, Tamworth, S Kesteven) due to concerns about evidence base.



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Objective assessment of housing needs

There is no standard methodology but must be demonstrably objective;

Examinations still finding too many plans that do not start from this basis;

Plans withdrawn (e.g. Melton) or examinations suspended (e.g. S Gloucestershire, BANES, Rushcliffe, East Hampshire) due to concerns on these matters

National Planning Practice Guidance and PAS (key principles for owning your housing number) will help improve LPA practice;

Viability and delivery of sites also key to sound plan.



Duty to co-operate

Any failure of legal requirement cannot be retro-fitted; as a result, Coventry CS and N London Waste plans withdrawn; Hart currently considering withdrawal;

Examinations have shown importance of demonstrating the outcomes of co-operation;

PINS understands difficulties entailed by different timetables for plan preparation in adjoining authorities but objectives of DtC cannot be set aside for this reason; formal agreements and statements of common ground may assist - aligned/joint plans can be an effective approach in some areas;

Revocation of RS has now emphasised importance of joint approaches especially in city regions/green belt areas.