

NATIONAL PLANNING FORUM: 14 OCTOBER 2008

DRAFT CULTURE CHANGE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

Background

1. The NPF Culture Change Manifesto was launched in July 2008 to support the need for change highlighted in the research report *Delivering Inspiring Places: the role and status of Planning*¹. It is a powerful statement of the NPF Executive Board's commitment to action, made on behalf of all NPF member organisations.

2. During the summer, individual Sector groups have met and sought to identify key actions for their sector under each of the Manifesto's 5 strategic commitments. The framework overleaf presents the conclusions of their work and that of the Culture Change Working Group, and is suggested as a "Framework for Action". In order to help achieve the required outcomes specific actions are prioritised and given a target date to ensure we maximise their impact.

3. The framework accords with the principles set out for the Culture Change Action Plan as being realistic, deliverable and yet challenging enough to lead to changed behaviours both within and across sectors. Each organisation in membership of the NPF is expected to add its own set of actions to this framework (in the last column) to help to deliver the required outcomes.

4. Progress on each action will be monitored and a 6 monthly review will be undertaken by each Vice-Chair and his/her sector, supplemented by survey work and progress-chasing where necessary. Results will be reported to the Forum by the Executive Board 6-monthly.

5. This report has been circulated in draft to all NPF members and the comments received have been incorporated into the first 5 columns of the draft framework (highlighted). The Executive Board is keen to sharpen up the actions and measures of success – suggestions are welcome. They also want **each organisation in membership of the NPF to commit to at least 1 action over the next year (either individually or jointly with others) that links to this framework**; Communities and Local Government, the British Property Federation, Planning Inspectorate, Planning Advisory Service and Association of Town Centre Managers are already working in this way.

6. Subject to agreement at this meeting, the framework will be launched in November. The cost of printing and a launch event could be covered by sponsorship.

Reference:

1. *Delivering Inspiring Places: the role and status of Planning*, Professor Janice Morphet with Tony Burton and Laura Hughes at IDOX plc, for NPF July 2008

Kay Powell
NPF Secretary
3 October 2008

CULTURE CHANGE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION AS AT 3 10 08[@]

MANIFESTO COMMITMENT	STRATEGIC ACTION	SPECIFIC ACTIONS	BY WHOM/ BY WHEN	MEASURE	ACTION BY YOUR ORGANISATION
Understand and promote the role that planning plays in place shaping	1. Improve awareness by all stakeholders of the new approach to planning and their role in it	1.1 Ensure all NPF members' web-sites contain up-to-date briefing material on the new planning system and the organisation's role in it, plus links to relevant web-sites with further information	All + NPF Secretary by 06/2009	#Evidence of an increased number of professionals, Members, the development community and members of the public with an improved understanding of the new planning system	
		1.2 Co-operate on joint case studies, dissemination of best practice and training both within and across sectors, providing inputs and holding joint events (Professional Institutes, POS, PAS, Govt Agency Planners etc)	All by 10/2009	Number of instances of cooperation achieved, and evidence of its impact	
Appreciate the complexity of planning, but simplify its procedures	2. Demystify planning and link it to corporate policy and programmes to ensure joined-up policy and delivery	2.1 Identify means of reflecting Planning policy at Departmental and delivery levels including Cabinet, Treasury and Government Agencies	CLG/ Govt Agencies by 06/2009	Evidence of improved understanding of planning across Government Departments and Agencies	
		2.2 Ensure that the Cabinet member with responsibility for planning delivery works with the LAA and new performance framework and ensures integration between plan-making and development management	Local Govt by 06/2009	Proportion of councils where this is in place	
Remove the barriers to partnership working	3. Get the vision back into planning and help to make the planning system less adversarial	3.1 Work openly and transparently with the Local Strategic Partnership to develop a vision for each area that links with the LDF and delivery plan	Local Govt, Govt Agencies, Private sector, 3 rd sector	Evidence from reports on LDF examinations	

			by 10/2009		
		3.2 Engage early in policy and spatial plan-making, and pre-design pre-application discussions to achieve consensual outcomes that integrate social, economic and environmental objectives, drawing on all available expert knowledge	CLG, Local Govt, Private sector, 3 rd sector by 06/2009	Proportion of DPDs that are found to be sound; change in rate of refusal of planning permission on applications for which pre-application advice was given	
Provide the support to enable planning to be effective	4. Ensure that planning is viewed as a positive activity, characterised by a commitment to learning, understanding and improvement	4.1 Improve planners' skills in particular in delivering sustainable development, development finance, managing people, resources and programmes in initial and continuing professional planning education	Professions by 6/2009	#Demonstrable impact on planning practice reflected in advice to members and/or clients, reports and Appeal documents	
		4.2 Assess the most effective forms of training, support production of training materials and courses in these forms, and map their availability	Professional Institutes by 3/2009	Availability of advice on the most appropriate forms of training, and evidence that this is being effective in improving skills and confidence	
Devise ways of showing what planning can achieve	5. Seek out and highlight examples of best practice	5.1 Widen the scope and effectiveness of knowledge transfer to include best practice from Awards and other sources	PAS, Planning Portal by 10/2009	More accessible, linked sources of best practice advice (plan-making and project delivery) that have a measurable impact on planning practice	
		5.2 Celebrate Planning achievement involving excellence in joined up cross-sectoral working via a new LGC Award	NPF by 10/2009	Successful launch of the Award	

Note: @ amendments to the Framework since the 23 09 version are highlighted.
a sharper focus is needed for these measures - suggestions are welcome