

NATIONAL PLANNING FORUM 6 JULY 2009 BUSINESS PLAN 2009-12, WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2009-10

Preface

i. This Business Plan is set in the context of the Executive Board's key aim of influencing the policy agenda - not to lobby - and to focus on products and deliverables on which the National Planning Forum (NPF) can add unique value.

ii It continues to be important to ensure value for money and deliverability on the major products for 2009-10 including driving delivery, chasing and reporting on progress on the Culture Change Action Plan, and establishing a Mediation pilot before the appeal stage in cooperation with the Planning Inspectorate.

iii. Our resources are boosted by generous support from member organisations via staff inputs to our work and provision of meeting rooms, catering, and other contributions to events. NPF spending was less than envisaged in 2008-9 so a more ambitious programme is possible in 2009-10 and this is reflected in our Work Programme.

iv. We aim to achieve a sharper focus via further refinement and regular review of this Business Plan by the Executive Board. The Board will also consider how best to increase the contributions made by member organisations alongside milestones for increasing membership and a continued drive to improve governance.

Business Plan 2009-12

1. The 3 key priorities in the current NPF Business Plan continue to be:

1.1 monitoring progress on delivery of the Culture Change Manifesto and Culture Change

Action Plan: Executive Board members will lead this drive and ensure active participation by all member organisations in their sector. In particular we will do more to disseminate best practice. This will include showcasing examples at NPF meetings and including key pointers from successful schemes - particularly those that have resulted from effective cross-sectoral working - on the NPF web-site, linked to sections of other web-sites.

1.2 ensuring that the NPF continues to add value: the NPF will add value by providing

- (i) a high-level cross-sectoral sounding board;
- (ii) a means of informing/shaping "critical friend" advice for CLG on key planning issues from a cross-sectoral perspective akin to those provided by Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) at local level; and
- (iv) a channel for dissemination of best practice.

1.3. making progress on a key policy issue: the Board considers it important to focus its energy on a key issue at each meeting rather than routine business. Issues for 2008-09 were housing and the role of planning in local government. The key issue identified for 2009-10 is responding to recession and climate change.

Progress on the Work Programme 2008-09

2. As highlighted in Annex 1 the Culture Change Manifesto and Action Plan have both been launched, the Action Plan securing commitments to action by 18 member organisations. Work on monitoring delivery has started and will continue through 2009-10. Action on promoting examples of best practice (including via the Culture Change Action Plan) will also continue in 2009-10. We pursued a pro-active approach to programming items at Forum meetings - including regular updates from CLG and Government Agencies but did not engage in separate meetings on housing or local government. The Executive Board on 13 February agreed that others (including PAS, Planning Portal, RTPI) were in a better position than the NPF to spread best practice, so we supported constituent organisations in delivering Action 3, enabling us to focus on 3 policy actions and 1 on governance this year.

Work Programme 2009-10

3. We aim to focus on ensuring a better understanding of perspectives of different sectors to inform responses to consultation, and to help develop cross-sectoral solutions taking into account the recommendations of the Killian - Pretty review. The programme at Annex 2 has 4 key elements:

- (1) *maintaining momentum on culture change,*
- (2) *identifying key issues and means of tackling them,*
- (3) *strengthening the feedback loop between policy and practice, and*
- (4) *promoting and spreading best practice.*

Budget 2009-10

4. We are aiming for a total spend of £100k with the major new elements being on Action Plan monitoring and Mediation demonstration projects. We will be able to do this whilst retaining our Reserve fund because of underspends last year.

ANNEX 1: PROGRESS ON CURRENT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2008-09

ACTIONS	STRATEGIC FOCUS	PRODUCTS 2008-09	LEAD	TIME LINE
1. Promote culture change amongst planners and everyone involved in planning by signing up to the NPF Culture Change Manifesto and the Action Plan	Using the unique membership of the NPF to drive key behavioural changes in all sectors to ensure that planning and planners are positive, spatial, plan-led, and produce sustainable outcomes	Launch the Culture Change Manifesto; finalise and launch the Action Plan; EB members to lead dissemination and action in their sector, monitor progress 6 monthly, and review as necessary	Executive Board, Culture Change Working Group, Membership, and Secretary	Manifesto + Research Report: by June [4/7] launch Action Plan. by Oct [5/2] signoff, launch/ disseminate Oct-Jan 09 implement and monitor
2. Identify key issues affecting the planning system and means of tackling them	Housing; and Local Government	Debates with Leaders/ CEOs of relevant organisations to identify/ pursue appropriate action	Executive Board and Secretary	By Mar '09
3. Support delivery of high quality planning services across the country, ensuring that planning continues to contribute to sustainable development	<i>Ensure spread of best practice from known examples (eg those with sound DPDs, recipients of RTPI or other planning awards)</i>	<i>Identify best practice in major project delivery and disseminate the results via the NPF and linked web-sites</i>	<i>Executive Board, Delivery Working Group and Secretary</i>	By Mar '09 [#]
4. Develop the capacity of the NPF to make an authoritative and distinctive contribution to spatial planning in England	Ensure that NPF members are aware of the latest thinking in spatial planning and are able to input to its development and enhancement	Update members regularly at Forum meetings on policy developments and best practice from across the 5 sectors	Executive Board, Secretary, Communities and Local Government	Milestone at June, Oct, Dec and Mar '09
5. Enhance the benefits of NPF membership, maintain robust membership criteria, encourage contributions to NPF work, and strengthen governance arrangements	Ensure balanced representation and appropriate contributions from each sector, and improve governance	Demonstrate enhanced membership benefits; review membership by sector in the light of the NPF terms of reference	Executive Board and Secretary	June membership by category on the NPF web-site Mar 09 evidence of increased engagement in NPF work, and of improved governance

NOTES: **Targets achieved highlighted** [variants given in brackets]
NPF delivered on this action by supporting its constituent organisations

ANNEX 2: WORK PROGRAMME 2009-10

ACTIONS	STRATEGIC FOCUS	PRODUCTS 2009-10	LEAD	TIME LINE
1. Promote culture change , monitoring delivery of the Manifesto and Action Plan, and roll forward	Identifying and reinforcing positive change that helps produce sustainable outcomes	Monitoring report on Manifesto and Action Plan	Executive Board, Culture Change Working Group, Secretary	Monitoring contract let by May 09 1 st Monitoring report - by Oct 09 Manifesto -review/roll forward by Dec 09 2 nd Monitoring report - Mar 10
2. Identify key issues affect the planning system and means of tackling them	(i) Responding to recession and climate change (ii) Mediation for planning issues arising before appeal stage	(i) Paper that identifies the issues, appropriate actions, responsibilities and timescales (ii) Establish Working Group, prepare initial scoping report and start pilot study	Executive Board and Secretary	(i) Initial paper by Apr 09 , and completed by Mar 10 (ii) Initial report by Oct 09 , pilot to start by Mar 10
3. Strengthen the feedback loop between policy and practice	Use experience of practice to inform members and, through them, spread best practice and inform new policy development	(i) Establish a feedback process between policy and practice involving NPF members (ii) Work with CLG on agreed priority issues	Executive Board, Secretary and CLG	Milestones at June, Oct, Dec 09 and Mar 10 (ii) timescale to be confirmed
4. Improve governance arrangements	Continue to ensure balanced representation and appropriate contributions from each sector, and improve governance	Increased and more active membership	Executive Board and Secretary	Milestones at Oct 09 and Mar 10

ANNEX 3: BUDGET 2009-10

	2005-6	2006-7	2007-8	2008-9		2009-10
				Budget	Actual	Budget
Reserve Fund (RF)				40	40	40
INCOME (£k)						
C/F	3.9	29.9	53.3	29.8	29.3	55.4
ODPM/DCLG	25	25	25	26	26	26
LGA	2	2	2	2	2	2
RICS	1	1	1	1	1	1
CABE	1	2	-	1	1	1
HBF	1	1	1	1	-	-
PAS	5	5	5	5	5	5
PINS	5	5	5	5	5	5
RTPI	5	5*	5	5	5	5
BPF	5	5*	5	5	5	5
Environment Agency	5	5	10	--	--	5
TCPA	#	#	#	#	#	#
CPRE	*	-	-	-	-	-
RSPB	-	*	*	*	*	*
BIAC	-	-	0.5	-	0.5	0.5
English Heritage	-	-	-	-	5	-
Others^	1.2	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	60.1	85.9	112.0	80.8	84.8	110.9
EXPENDITURE (£k)				2008-9		2009-10
				Budget	Actual	Budget
NPF web-site	1.4	0.7	1	2	1.0	2.0
NPF Secretary (contract)	(24)	(32.7)	(26.2)	(32)	28.4	(32.0)
NPF Secretary expenses	(((((
Administrative support	-	-	-	-	-	-
Publicity	1.4	-	-	5	-	-
Accountancy fees (TCPA)	2	2	3	3	3	3
NPF events	-	-	-	-	-	20
Research	0.5	-	-	-	-	5
Publications/printing	2	-	0.2	1	0.2	3
Working Groups						
Housing	-	-	-	-	-	5
Culture change	-	-	12	7	0.8	20
Delivery	-	-	-	25	-	-
Mediation	-	-	-	-	-	20
Expenditure	30.1	35.4	43	79.0	29.4	110.0
Balance c/f	26.1	50.5	69.3	1.8	55.4	0.9
Total Expenditure	60.1	85.9	112.0	80.8	84.8	110.9

Notes: + plus administrative and design support
plus administrative and finance support and advice
* plus input from Chair/Vice Chairs via the Executive Board
~ contribution of £10k paid in 2007/8