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FIT FOR PURPOSE SPATIAL PLANNING

Investment in robust spatial plans and delivery strategies, supported by effective development management, is vital to enable economic recovery and adapt to climate change says the National Planning Forum (NPF) in its Manifesto “Fit for Purpose Spatial Planning” launched today.

“Effective spatial planning is vital to meeting the challenges of economic recovery and climate change. We need to work together to create sustainable places and communities in accessible locations, served by new transport investment and to provide security of supply of energy, water and food.” said Mike Haines (LGA), NPF Chair and Vice-Chair representing Local Government.

Supporting the launch of the Manifesto, Liz Peace (BPF), NPF Vice-Chair (Business) and Chair of the Working Group which helped to produce it, said “We need fit-for-purpose spatial planning at all levels, and an approach that focuses firmly on delivery.”

In a strong message to all the major political parties delivered to each of their Planning spokespeople today, the NPF sets out its 5 priorities for spatial planning as:

- sound strategy
- quality
- effectiveness
- delivery
- stability

Drafted by Mike Hayes, Rapporteur for the Working Group and the NPF Vice-Chair (Professions), the Manifesto reflects the views of all 5 sectors in membership of the NPF.

Ends....

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A copy of the NPF Manifesto “Fit for Purpose Spatial Planning” is attached.

The National Planning Forum (NPF) was re-launched in 2003 as the largest cross-sectoral forum focussing on planning in England. The NPF aspires to “inspire planning” and all those involved in the planning process and in delivering the new planning agenda.

It involves over 70 bodies with a wide range of members across government and its agencies, local government, business, the professions and non-governmental organisations. Member organisations include: Communities and Local Government, the Local Government Association, Planning Inspectorate, Planning Advisory Service, Royal Town Planning Institute, British Property Federation, Environment Agency, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, Home Builders Federation, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, British Institute of Agricultural Consultants, English Heritage, and the Town and Country Planning Association

As well as taking action at national level to improve awareness and planning practice across the sectors, the NPF is undertaking a project with the Planning Inspectorate to demonstrate the value of mediation in planning, is looking at ways to improve the interface between planning and building control, and how planning needs to operate as we emerge from the recession and face the challenge of adapting to climate change.

More information about the NPF can be found at www.natplanforum.org.uk, or from secretary@natplanforum.org.uk.