

MEETING: NATIONAL PLANNING FORUM  
TIME: 12.45pm for 1.30pm WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> 2013  
LOCATION: LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, SW1P 3HZ

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## AGENDA

### 1. Welcome and opening remarks

Brian Waters: Chair of the National Planning Forum and NPF Vice-chair (Professions)

### 2. The future of shopping and the places where we do it?

#### ■ The overview and current initiatives

##### (a) Andrew Bolitho: Energy, Property and Transport Advisor at the British Retail Consortium

Overview of current retail scene and BRC initiatives.

##### (a) Ojay McDonald: Policy Manager for the Association of Town & City Management

ATCM and other policy initiatives in respect of town centres and high streets.

##### (b) Chris Wade: Chief Executive of AMT Towns Alive (Twitter @man\_about\_towns)

Planning for town centres at the heart of communities.

#### ■ Brandon Lewis MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Brandon Lewis has responsibility for local government, fire and resilience, high streets, town centres and markets, travellers and community pubs.

#### ■ Panel discussion and Q and A chaired by Jonathan Baldock, independent town centres and retail consultant and a Director of the National Retail Planning Forum.

### 3. Progress in planning reform in 2013: Steve Quartermain, Chief Planner, DCLG

### 4. Update – the Secretary

### 5. AOB

## NOTE FROM THE NPF BOARD

The Executive Board of the National Planning Forum comprises:

Dave Chetwyn	IHBP representing the third sector
Simon Leask	HCA ATLAS representing planners in government agencies
Ghislaine Trahearne	BPF representing the business sector
Brian Waters	LDF representing the professions

There is currently a vacancy for a representative of planning in local government following LGA's decision to withdraw from NPF governance. The Board will be seeking to fill this vacancy in due course.

At its meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> the Board agreed that Brian Waters would remain in the chair for one further year.

## MEETINGS IN 2014 WILL BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

March 12<sup>th</sup> - venue to be advised

June 16<sup>th</sup> – LG House

September 10<sup>th</sup> - LG House

December 15<sup>th</sup> – LG House

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Brandon Lewis MP**

**Biography:** Brandon Lewis MP was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government in September 2012. He was elected as the Conservative MP for Great Yarmouth in May 2010.

**Education:** Mr Lewis has a BSc Economics and LLB Hons (Law) from the University of Buckingham. He also holds an LLM in commercial law from King's College London.

**Political career:** In his current position he has responsibility for local councils up and down the country, as well as public houses and fire services.

**Career outside politics:** Brandon is a qualified barrister and a company director. Before joining the government, Brandon was an active member of a number of All Party Parliamentary Groups, including those for enterprise zones and local growth as well as local government. He was co-chair of a group on coastal erosion and continues to work with colleagues who represent other coastal towns to highlight common issues in their constituencies.

Brandon served on Brentwood Borough Council for more than 10 years, with 5 as Leader.

**Personal life:** Brandon is married with 2 children. He enjoys a variety of sports as well as reading and going to the theatre and cinema. He has also completed the London Marathon twice.

### **Andrew Bolitho**

A dedicated and experienced carbon and energy professional with an extensive background in Climate Change, Carbon and Energy Management, gained over nine years' experience in the Government and private sector. Confident and determined excels in analysis and strategy development in Carbon and Energy policy. Experienced and adept at dealing with diverse and high-level stakeholders including Ministers, Special Advisors and Senior Policy Officials as well as Directors and Chief Executives of businesses both nationally and internationally.

### **Ojay Mc Donald**

Responsible for leading on public policy to develop healthy town/city centres across the UK, successfully aligning town/city centre management with Number 10 policies on local social and economic regeneration, establishing it as part of the wider strategy for economic recovery. This includes:

- Developing and promoting sustainable urban planning policies across the UK to encourage economic recovery
- Advising ministers, shadow ministers, senior civil servants, MPs and peers
- The publication of high quality research
- Influencing relevant primary and secondary legislation
- Providing the secretariat for relevant parliamentary groups across the UK
- Working with Town Centre Managers, City Centre Managers, BID Managers and Economic Development Officers
- Communicating complex policy and political developments clearly and effectively to economic and social development stakeholders across the UK
- Working with the International Downtown Association in Washington DC to ensure the learning and disseminating of successful place-based public policy developments across the globe
- Co-ordinating the intellectual capacity of ATCM and its membership base to facilitate knowledge exchange to help evolve and professionalise town centre management.

### **Chris Wade**

As chief executive of Action for Market Towns (AMT), Chris has re-shaped its work to provide support to maintain thriving small towns by working with communities across the UK, providing advice to local authorities and influencing decision-makers.

Chris has nearly twenty years' experience in environmental management and rural affairs as well as a strong background in running independent rural development organisations. He has three postgraduate qualifications in relevant disciplines, including most recently a Masters degree in Community Enterprise from the University of Cambridge Business School. He is currently embarking on a PhD with the University of London on CSR and community regeneration.

Until recently Chris was Chair of Locality's Policy Committee and Vice Chair of both the South East Rural Towns Partnership and the Yorkshire and Humber Market Towns Network. He is also an active member of the Rural Coalition.

### **Jonathan Baldock**

Bachelor of Science (Estate Management) and Master of Science (Urban Land Appraisal). Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute.

An independent Town Centres and Retail Planning Consultant. Until February 2009, Director and Head of Retail Planning at DTZ, based in the company's London head office. Before that, Partner and Head of Retail Planning at Donaldsons, until that firm was acquired by DTZ in 2007.

In 1999 led CB Hillier Parker's major research project for the National Retail Planning Forum (NRPf), the British Council of Shopping Centres and the former DETR, on how the sequential approach was working in practice for retail development. The results of that study were published by the NRPf in February 2000, under the title 'The Sequential Approach to Retail Development'. also led the large scale national research project for the NRPf on secondary shopping, the results of which were published in November 2004 under the title 'The Role and Vitality of Secondary Shopping – A New Direction'. In 2009/10, led DTZ's research for the DCLG on 'Managing Retail Diversity in Town Centres'.

Director of the NRPf and a member of its Research Group. From 1996 to 2006, Director of the Association of Town Centre Management. In 2009, member of the Sounding Board of practitioners convened by the DCLG to help steer the preparation of the PPS4 Practice Guidance. On behalf of the NRPf, in 2009 convened and chaired the Working Group which prepared the Glossary of Terms in Appendix A of the Practice Guidance; and drafted many of those definitions. Currently leading an initiative by the NRPf to improve education for retail planning.