



planning advisory service



# National Planning Forum

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[www.pas.gov.uk](http://www.pas.gov.uk)

# A brief run through

- PAS
  - Programme for 2012-13
  - Reflecting on what we've picked up
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# What is Planning Advisory Service for?

“to help local planning authorities to manage and **deliver changes in the planning system**, and to **drive improvements** in the overall performance of local planning authorities in England”

(Grant offer letter for 2011-12)

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# What is PAS ?

- PAS is a DCLG grant-funded programme
  - 3rd iteration (speed of decisions/plan making/planning reform)
  - £2.65m 2012-13
  - DCLG set out terms and priorities
  - Hosted by the LGA
  - 10 staff
  - Commission from supplier framework/peers
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# What is PAS ?

We try to ensure our work is :

- a good use of public money
- for Councils (+ Councillors)
- Scalable / shareable
- Useful (we add value/not already being done well by someone else)

Inevitably our work is:

- A moving feast (eg NPPF)
  - A mix of remedial and leading
  - Outside our control (DCLG / LGA / Councils)
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# 2012-13 programme

- Help local authorities to implement the changes from the Localism Act and the NPPF
  - Especially, getting plans in place
  - 5 themes:
    1. Understanding and responding to planning reform
    2. Strong and strategic planning by local authorities for neighbourhoods and local areas, based on having an up to date local plan in place
    3. Effective development management and good decision making
    4. Accountable and value for money planning services
    5. Growth, development and infrastructure
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# Spend allocation

- Planning Reform £80k
  - Plan making £1m
  - Accountable and vfm £270k
  - Decision making £200k
  - Growth and investment £450k
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# To drill down a bit more

- 73 lines of stuff we want to do, but top four spending areas are:
    - Plan-making support
    - Community Infrastructure Levy
    - Councillor briefings
    - Peer reviews
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# NPPF

- Events
  - Planning reform briefings – at councils, LGA events
  - NPPF toolkit
  - FAQs
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# Local plan-making

- Neighbourhood planning FAQs and how to's
  - principles of plan-making
  - strategic planning guide
  - developing neighbourhood planning
  - technical support
  - councillor briefings
  - CABE/PAS workshops
  - duty to co-operate (supporting groups)
  - PINs/PAS surgery workshops
  - regional policy workshops
  - setting up partnerships
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# Accountable and vfm services

- Benchmark
  - Models of service delivery
  - Action planning for improvement
  - Peer review
  - Life after NI157
  - Open Public Services white paper
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# Decision making

- Taking decisions with the NPPF
  - Gypsy and traveller briefings
  - Planning performance agreements and pre-app processes
  - Local Development Orders
  - 'Taking difficult decisions'
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# Growth and investment

- CiL
  - Planning for local growth
  - Money, growth and infrastructure publication
  - Strategic planning
  - Collaboration with TCPA and HCA on planning for large scale urban extensions
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# Reflections – plan-making

- Progress (slowly)
  - Confidence/uncertainty
  - Officer level importance realised
  - Difficult:
    - housing need and site allocations,
    - viability of plan,
    - viability of sites,
    - duty to co-operate all proving difficult
  - Some councillor recognition of importance
    - But not always reflected in decision making
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# Reflections - public sector reform

- Resource challenges – and its not over yet
  - Authorities aren't standing still:
    - 72% of authorities have already made changes to the way planning services are delivered
  - PAS benchmarking has been very helpful
  - Appetite for improvement (and understanding)
  - Culture change – putting the customer first (move from targets)
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# If you do nothing else

- Sign up to newsletter:
  - [www.pas.gov.uk/newsletter](http://www.pas.gov.uk/newsletter)

## PAS monthly email updates

**Support and training**

Keeping everyone briefed is tough in the rapidly changing world of planning. To help you out we've updated our presentations on planning reform, the NPPF and a councillors briefing on viability. We've also launched the first part of our new strategic planning work - a guide to help keep us all focused on its purpose and value. We've also got the latest on our new planning, CL, and the rest of our forums.

**Free events across the country**

**Downloads and case studies**

**Planning and Localism Bill councillor presentation**

We have recently updated our planning reform overview presentation. This is just one of a series of materials designed to help councillors better understand numerous topics around planning reform. All materials are available to download free of charge from our site.

**Events**

**Other events**

18 January 2012 | Warwick  
Leadership Academy - Strategic planning and delivery

19 February 2012 | Warwick  
Leadership Academy - Localism and neighbourhood planning

18 February 2012 | Warwick  
Leadership Academy - Strategic planning and delivery

07 March 2012 | Bristol  
Leadership Academy - Localism and neighbourhood planning

Organise a bespoke event at your authority:  
Plan making  
Councilor briefing

**Discussion forums**

<b>General discussions</b>	<b>Plan making</b>
Site plans on school buildings	Guidance for the public on reviewing a Publication zone
Duplicate permissions	Integrating NIA, EIA and SA in site presentation
<b>CL and section 106 agreements</b>	<b>Enforcement</b>
Localism and planning obligations	Retrospective planning queries
CL viability	Consent in residential settings

Start your own discussion board  
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**Heated debate, discussion and Q&A**

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## Contact us

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