

NPF Dates and times of Meetings 2004/5 : Report for information and comment

Following the first year of operation of the Forum, Executive has taken the opportunity to review the effectiveness of NPF meetings. Soundings have been taken and views canvassed. Colleagues indicate that the meetings could valuably be compressed into a half day with a morning start and a finish after a 'latish' lunch. The principal weakness of the earlier model is thought to be the Task Groups which often have to start from scratch each time as membership is not constant. Colleagues have also indicated that they would wish to participate in all the task groups and argue it would be more successful if the whole meeting were in plenary.

Executive also considers it would be useful to concentrate on a theme at each of the meetings and seek to produce an output such as a Protocol or Guidance Note which could go out in the name of the NPF. If it were not possible to produce it on the day, then a few volunteers could perhaps network afterwards to generate the output for circulation and dissemination. The overall effect would be to tighten and focus the activity on a tangible outcome.

The theme of the first meeting on 20 September is on 'Community Involvement in Planning' and will include presentations from the Prince's Foundation, National Trust, House Builders' Federation, Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation, Planning Officers Society and others.

Dates of other meetings for the year are listed below. Colleagues are encouraged to offer topical and important themes which can be the subject of discussion through the coming year.

Suggestions please to the Secretary