

PLANNING FOR TRANSFER

Capacity Building & Training for Elected Representatives

Session 1: Overview of the New Planning System



WELCOME

- First Session - Overview of the new Planning System
- Three further sessions to follow:
 - (i) Development Plans & working with the Community
 - (ii) Practical Planning
 - (iii) Propriety and Outcomes
- Training has been developed to assist Members to build a knowledge of the new planning system – (you are not expected to remember everything that is said)
- Professional Planners will be available to assist in the decision making & Development Plan processes

Planning Reform

- Transfer of majority of planning functions to local government – return to a two tier system
- Faster plans and processing of planning applications
- Faster and Fairer Appeals
- Simpler and Tougher Enforcement
- Sustainable Development
- Enhanced Community Involvement

Planning Functions Transferring to Councils

- Local Development Planning
- Development Management
(excluding applications of regional significance but including all other applications currently in the system)
- Enforcement
(all breaches of planning control)
- Conservation areas

Planning Functions remaining with DOE

- Planning legislation & planning policy
- Guidance and providing support for Councils
- Case work: regionally significant planning applications, plan scrutiny, call-in & Article 31s
- Performance management and continuous improvement
- Statutory listing of buildings of special architecture or historic interest
- Fee setting, funding, grant making powers
- Selective reserve powers e.g. to take enforcement action

Benefits of new Planning System

- Better suited to local communities and their needs
- Opportunity to transform local areas to reflect local culture and environment
- Opportunity to influence local investment climate
- Use of local knowledge to shape policies and proposals to benefit communities
- Better co-ordination of services
- Better integration with other council functions
- Better engagement and buy in from community members
- Civic approach fostering better community relations

Local Development Plans

- Councils, working with local people, will create a clear vision of how the council area should look in the future.
- Councils will use their development plans to show how that vision will be realised and what types of development will go where.
- Councils will have professional planners to advise them but it will be the councillors themselves who will be responsible for the decisions.
- Central Government will retain responsibility for the regional development strategy and strategic planning policies.

The Role of Councillors

- Leadership
- Understanding issues affecting their areas
- Setting the vision and objectives
- Setting priorities
- Making & delegating decisions and understanding implications
- Agreeing programmes and resources
- Engagement/community accountability
- Working with other authorities and agencies
- Scrutiny, monitoring and service improvement

Future Vision - Planning in Local Government

- Councils making plans
- Councillors making planning decisions
- Community planning
- Connections with other functions
- Delivering for community
- Connection with place
- Civic Leadership