

Key messages for Neighbourhood Planning:

- Project Planning is vitally important and to ensure community is realistic about timescales for when a Neighbourhood Plan could be adopted.
- Degree of assessment of sustainability appraisal/SEA required (take advice from Local Planning Authority)
- Vital to understand 5 basic conditions that all Neighbourhood Plans should comply with:
 - (i) They must be appropriate in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (particularly para. 16)
 - (ii) They must help achieve sustainable development (as defined by the NPPF to include a balance of economic, social and environmental aspects (para. 7)
 - (iii) They must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan.
 - (iv) They must comply with appropriate EU obligations and Human Rights requirements
 - (v) Neighbourhood Plans should not promote less development than that set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies.

MD advised that each Neighbourhood Forum should read Locality's recently produced 'Neighbourhood Plans Roadmap Guide'

MD outlined that the Examination process would normally only consider written representations and it will be up to the examiner to decide if there is to be a public meeting. At that public meeting, the examiner will decide who speaks.

"Having had the chance to work on all three Neighbourhood Fora we think there are some clear messages that it would be useful to relay to the meeting on Thursday:

- (vi) **Be Bold** – It is clear that to reach the housing numbers set out by the draft Local Plan that tough decisions need to be taken about housing growth sites. But more importantly, the future regeneration of the three town centres will require bold decisions to be taken on increasing densities in town centre locations. Major development sites in all 3 town centres could have a catalytic effect but they will require designation within the NP's and commitment from the council, private landowners and the TDA to deliver.
- (vii) **Review the SHLAA** – We understand that this process is proposed by the council and would agree that key sites that formed part of the initial assessment should be reviewed alongside new sites put forward by the Fora (this is especially important on some of the key town centre sites).
- (viii) **Consistency** – We have suggested similar structures for all 3 NP's in our workshop reports from June 2012. These were based on emerging examples elsewhere in the country and on our own experience. Whilst these may not be perfect, we would reiterate the importance of continuity across the 3 Fora.
- (ix) **Keep it simple** – A huge amount of work has gone into preparatory work of all 3 NP's. Whilst this work does provide excellent background and evidence, work needs to be carried out to bring this work in line with an agreed plan structure. Plan's should set out a vision, with clear objectives and a series of policies and sites that will deliver those objectives. The LP should not be repeated although it is obviously fine to expand on LP policies in the local context.

- (x) **Compliance** – *The plans should be in line with the emerging LP otherwise they will not be found sound by either the LA or an inspector and all the effort of the last 18 months will be wasted. This includes working with the proposed housing numbers. If the Fora wish to challenge these numbers that must be done through the LP process.*