



SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES IN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING FACTSHEET

As part of the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning scheme the Department for Communities and Local Government has provided additional funding until the end of March 2013 to enable four organisations to provide free to access and independent advice to communities now doing neighbourhood planning. This advice and support will be available to the neighbourhood planning front runners and other communities who are advanced in their neighbourhood planning work. Alongside this the Design Council will also be undertaking some work with neighbourhood planning front runners.

One of the aims of the front runners scheme is to support those areas that wanted to provide early exemplars of new neighbourhood planning, as set out in the Localism Act 2012. We want to learn from your experience: what has worked well and what has not; how did you involve your local community; what advice and tips would you give to other communities facing the same issues as you?

To help us learn those lessons and pass them on to other communities starting to produce their own neighbourhood plans, we have asked the support organisations to initially focus their resources on those communities that are quite advanced but may need some additional intensive support to help them get their neighbourhood plans in place.

The Localism Act also established a new duty on local planning authorities to provide advice to communities doing neighbourhood planning. If you are preparing a neighbourhood plan it is important that you talk to your council about the work you are doing and establish how they may be able to help you.

Attached to this factsheet is a summary from each of the funded organisations of the support and advice they are able to provide. If you are not currently working with one of these organisations, but think you need additional help to get your plan in place, please contact them directly on one of the numbers below, ideally by 7 September 2012 to help manage demand. Whilst we hope to maximise the assistance available there is a limited capacity in each of the organisations. Therefore to aid us please approach the organisation that you think most fits your needs in the first instance.

The organisations are:

- The Building Community Consortium (with Locality as the lead partner): For further information visit www.locality.org.uk/neighbourhoodplanning. Or e-mail them at neighbourhoodplanning@locality.org.uk Tel: 0845 458 8336
- Planning Aid: For further information contact John Romanski, Tel: 0203 206 1880, or E-mail: info@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk
- The Campaign to Protect Rural England working with the National Association of Local Councils: For further information contact Nigel Pedlingham on 020 7981 2832 or visit www.planninghelp.org.uk for an online planning resource.
- The Prince's Foundation for Building Community: For further information please contact Sebastian Knox at Sebastian.Knox@princes-foundation.org Tel 020 7613 8587

Cabe at the Design Council is also providing direct support to a number of community groups. The deadline for applications for free support has recently passed, decisions will be made in early September. The Design Council website is an excellent source of guidance and weblinks. For further information please contact Nicola Mathers on 020 7420 5257, nicola.mathers@designcouncil.org.uk or visit their neighbourhood planning resource pages:

<http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/our-work/CABE/Services/Plan/Neighbourhood-planning-toolkits-and-guidance/>

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