

Subject: Neighbourhood Planning and London's Communities

Report to: Planning Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 25 April 2019

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the background information for a meeting with invited external experts to discuss the progress of implementing neighbourhood planning in London

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the report as background to putting questions to invited external experts on a range of issues relating to the implementation of neighbourhood planning in London.**
- 2.2 **That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair, to agree any outputs from the discussion.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In May 2010, the Government announced, "the time has come to disperse power more widely in Britain today." The subsequent Localism Act 2011 introduced a series of measures that were designed to shift power away from central government towards local people.
- 3.2 The Localism Act 2011 introduced statutory neighbourhood planning to give communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area through their own Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.3 This Committee has conducted work that focussed on the way that neighbourhood planning has been implemented in London. Two reports, in 2012¹ and 2014² reviewed how aspects of the agenda were being implemented. The Committee found that:
- Interest in the process of Neighbourhood Planning was limited – areas of higher social and economic characteristics were over-represented, with more affluent communities with access to

¹¹ <https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s8691/Appendix%20-%20Beyond%20Consultation.pdf>

²² https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gla_migrate_files_destination/14-11-20-Localism-Report.pdf

professional expertise to drive the formation of neighbourhood forums having an advantage over those with less capacity or history of community organisation.

- Financial considerations and the budget pressures on local authorities may be slowing down the progress of neighbourhood planning in London.
- Greater promotion for neighbourhood planning in London's opportunity areas need to further the aims of localism and regeneration and boost a sense of legitimacy and support in these areas.

4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 This meeting will explore how the policy of neighbourhood planning and implementation in London has progressed since 2011. Members may wish to discuss the following issues:

- What is the current position regarding the progress of neighbourhood planning and implementation in London;
- What has neighbourhood planning achieved to date;
- Is neighbourhood planning still confined to areas that are socially and economically more advantaged;
- What are the issues and challenges to extending neighbourhood planning more widely;
- Are more resources required to enable the process to be extended; and
- Recommendations for improving neighbourhood planning.

Invited guests

4.2 A number of external guests have been invited to attend this meeting. The confirmed guests are:

- Henry Peterson, Chair, St Helens Residents Association and the St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Forum;
- Tony Burton, Convenor, Neighbourhood Planners London;
- Sharon Hayward, Co-ordinator, London Tenants Federation;
- Emma Brunskill-Powell, Researcher, Publica;
- Brian O'Donnell, Strategic Planning and Implementation Manager, London Borough of Camden; and in addition to the panel; and
- Representatives from neighbourhood forums will be participating.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report: None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None
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