

RTPI: North West Neighbourhood Planning

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AECOM

Introduction to Neighbourhood planning

AECOM is set to deliver a wide range of planning and environmental services to help communities across England develop their neighbourhood plans and shape development and growth in their local area. The four-year appointment is part of a major Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) contract that will be led by Locality, the nationwide network of community organisations, with AECOM as its principle subcontractor. The contract follows a three-year appointment previously held by AECOM delivering neighbourhood planning services for over 500 communities across England.

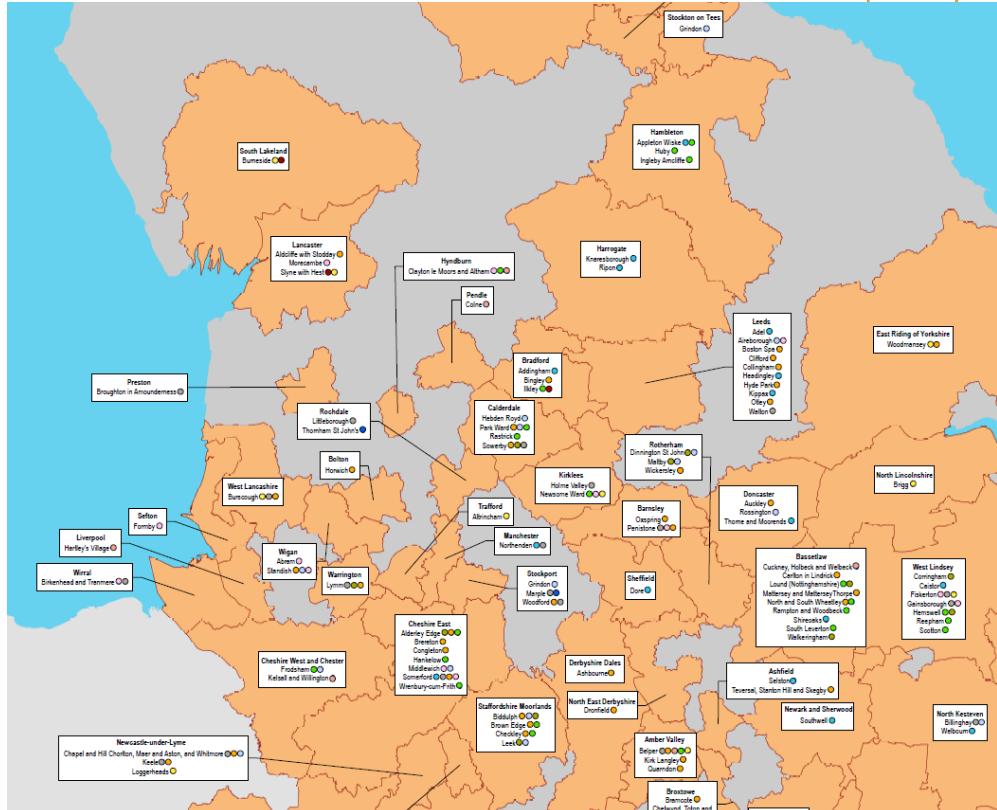
Our understanding

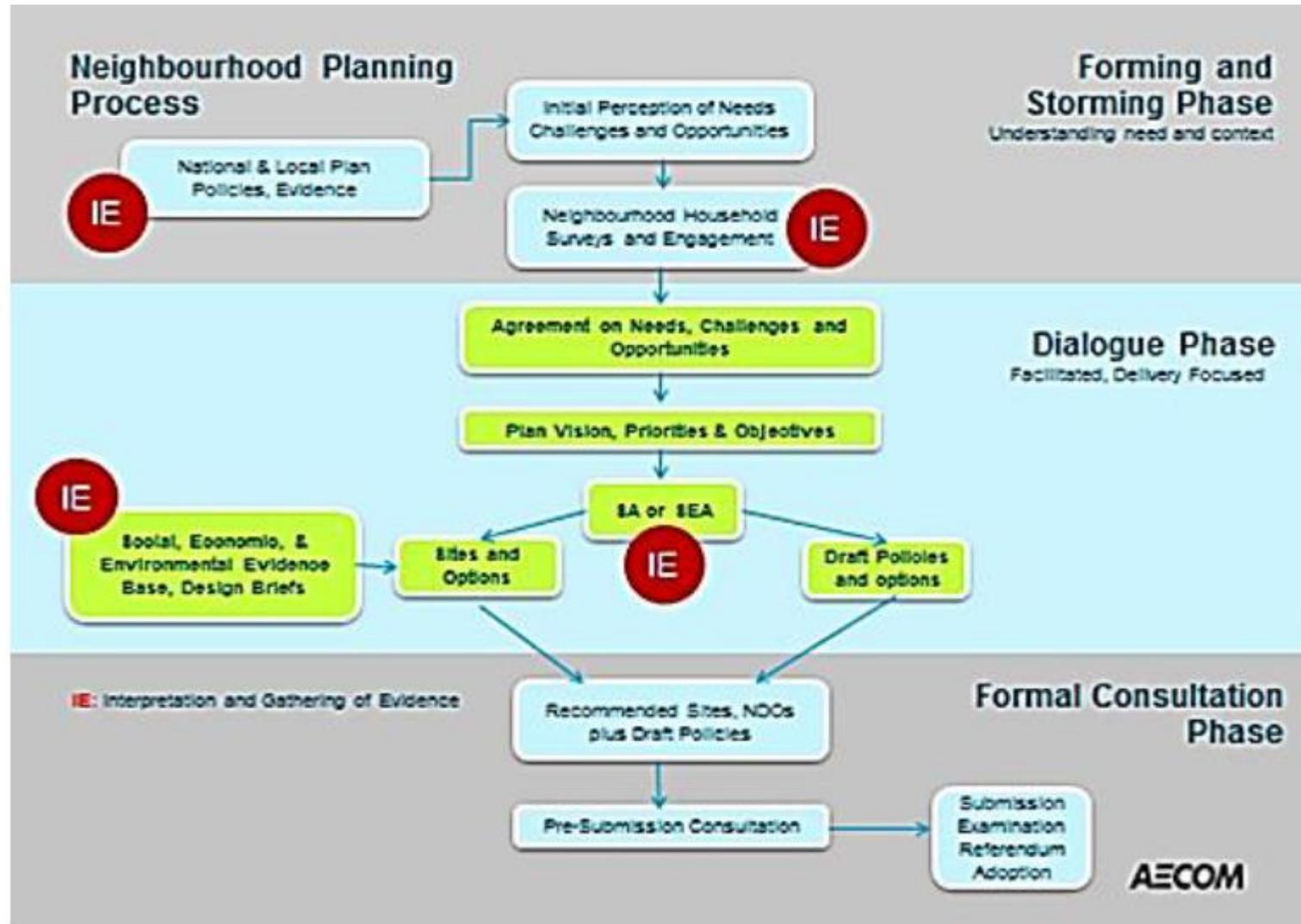
Where are we now 2018-2019?

- Total Value of Packages approximately £3 million of total gov £23million
- Colleagues from: London, Basingstoke, Bristol, Plymouth, Cambridge and Manchester
- Total number of Packages since April 2018:
 - Ready to Start: 54
 - In Progress: 68
 - Completed: 65

Neighbourhood Planning

Location England: United Kingdom
Client Local and Regional Housing, Communities and Local Government
Challenge Local authority and housing association partners need to work together to deliver high quality neighbourhood plans.
Solution neighbourhood planning introduced by the 2011 Localism Act, permits people across England, even if not in planned towns, to develop legally binding plans shaping the future development of their neighbourhoods. ACOOM has been involved from the start in supporting these communities on the understandings and complexities involved in developing neighbourhood plans. ACOOM is working for a better future through Localism, by supporting Local Government, Communities and Local Government (WLGO), ACOOM has delivered 79 neighbourhood plans and counting of technical support to community groups across the country, providing policy advice on everything from air quality to areas of flood risk.





Our understanding

What to be aware of....

Policy Making

The main changes and deletion of policies that relate to this Neighbourhood Plan as recommended by the Examiner include the following:

- The policy does not provide an enough clarity
- The policy is not a land use planning policy
- There was a lack of evidence to support the policy
- The draft policy conflicts with the existing Local Plan
- The policy simply repeats existing Local Plan policy

Overall the above analysis indicates the general extent and natural of neighbourhood plan policies and how they can be significantly amended at Examination

What can we do to help?

- Pre -Diagnostic –
<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/apply/>
- Diagnostic to discuss specific packages
- Early / ongoing discussions

Eligibility for Technical Support

Are you at least one of the following:

- Allocating sites for housing
- Seeking to bring forward affordable housing for sale in your plan
- Including design codes in your plan
- Planning to use a neighbourhood development order
- An undesignated Forum needing help to get designated

If the answer is yes to any of the above you can apply for technical support.

Delivering the right package

- Strategic Environment Assessment
- Habitats Regulation Assessment
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Housing Needs Assessment
- Evidence Base Policy Review
- Design Codes
- Masterplanning
- Site Options and Assessment
- Facilitation
- Forum Development



Housing Needs Assessment

Expected outcomes:

- A clear starting point for going on to look at availability of sites and justification for using the neighbourhood plan to allocate sites;
- Better understanding by the QB and the wider community on how to act upon the housing challenges facing you; and
- A firm basis for the QB and wider stakeholders to engage with a Local Planning Authority (LPA) developing a new Local Plan, and influence the housing number allocated to them.

Strategic Environment Assessment

Expected outcomes

- A robust and accessible SEA process which meets the relevant statutory requirements;
- An SEA process which has effectively informed and influenced Neighbourhood Plan policy development;
- Support for you to have considered alternative development strategies and enabled contentious policy issues to be explored;
- A process which helps maximise, and evidences your Neighbourhood Plan's contribution to sustainable development; and
- A process which will help your Neighbourhood Plan withstand scrutiny at Independent Examination and any potential subsequent challenge.

Site Options and Assessment

Expected outcomes:

Technical report including tailored advice relevant to the stage of site selection the group is at;

- site identification process and 'Call for Sites'*
- a full site assessment*
- independent review of the site assessment and selection process the group have undertaken to ensure it is sound and will meet Basic Conditions and supported by LPA.*

Design Codes

Expected outcomes:

- Quality and viable design advice that can be embedded into your neighbourhood plan as expectations;
- Proposals enabling you to shape, and for potential development to be more acceptable to local stakeholders;
- Proposals that put the community at the heart of the development and regeneration process relating to specific site(s);
- Proposals allowing you to engage with the full range of stakeholders as appropriate: the wider community, landowners, developers, local planning authority, housing providers, utility companies, neighbouring communities; and,
- Proposals that facilitate and guide development that is of community benefit.

Thank you

Questions?

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