



**PLANNING FOR PRIDE IN PLACE:  
Funding and support for neighbourhood  
planning in London**



**A report from  
Neighbourhood Planners.London  
February 2026**

## OVERVIEW

*"People have the answers to the problems in their communities and now they'll have the tools to fix it. More power to restore pride in where they live - and on their terms"*

Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer MP, 25 September 2025

*"The government remains of the view that neighbourhood plans can play an important role in the planning system"*

Planning Minister, Matthew Pennycook MP, 19 June 2025

Neighbourhood planning is one of the great successes of localism. Hundreds of local communities have taken up their rights to plan the future of their area by producing a neighbourhood plan that carries the same legal weight as the Local Plan produced by their local planning authority. In London nearly 70 neighbourhood forums have been designated and more than 30 neighbourhood plans are in force.

The Government's Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme providing grants and technical support direct to local communities has played a vital role for more than a decade in enabling neighbourhood planning to be taken up even in communities with limited resources and a lack of volunteer professionals.

Despite its impact the Government announced last year the end of the Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme that has run since 2013.

*"Following the Spending Review, my Department has announced that it is unable to commission new neighbourhood planning support services for 2025 onwards"*

Planning Minister, Matthew Pennycook MP, 19 June 2025

Local planning authorities continue to receive funding to pay for the support they provide and to organise an examination and the referendum necessary

to bring a neighbourhood plan into force but the volunteer-run organisations actually doing the work to produce a neighbourhood plan now get nothing.

This report tracks the history of grants worth £1m along with the technical support provided to neighbourhood planning forums in London since 2013. The data has been supplied by Locality and MHCLG (via a Freedom of Information request).

The report also reveals the contradiction that local authorities received 56% more funding (£1.66m) than neighbourhood forums (£1.05m) for neighbourhood planning in London despite it being the neighbourhood forum's responsibility to produce a neighbourhood plan. Camden (£220k) and Westminster (£350k) alone have received more than half the funding of all neighbourhood forums put together.

Our analysis also reveals neighbourhood forums have used 113 different packages of technical support to help them prepare a neighbourhood plan since 2015. This has helped on everything from design coding and housing needs assessments to masterplanning and community engagement.

London's communities have demonstrated the benefits of neighbourhood planning. They tackle head on the public disillusionment with being unable to affect the things that matter most in people's lives and where they live. This has come at a low financial cost, especially given the significant free volunteer effort involved. Neighbourhood planning should be playing a leading role in delivering the Government's priorities to inject pride in place.

We call on the Government to realise the potential of neighbourhood planning. An expanded and strengthened Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme is needed to ensure all communities continue to have access to their planning rights and to support communities everywhere to take a lead in shaping the way their neighbourhoods develop and grow in the future.



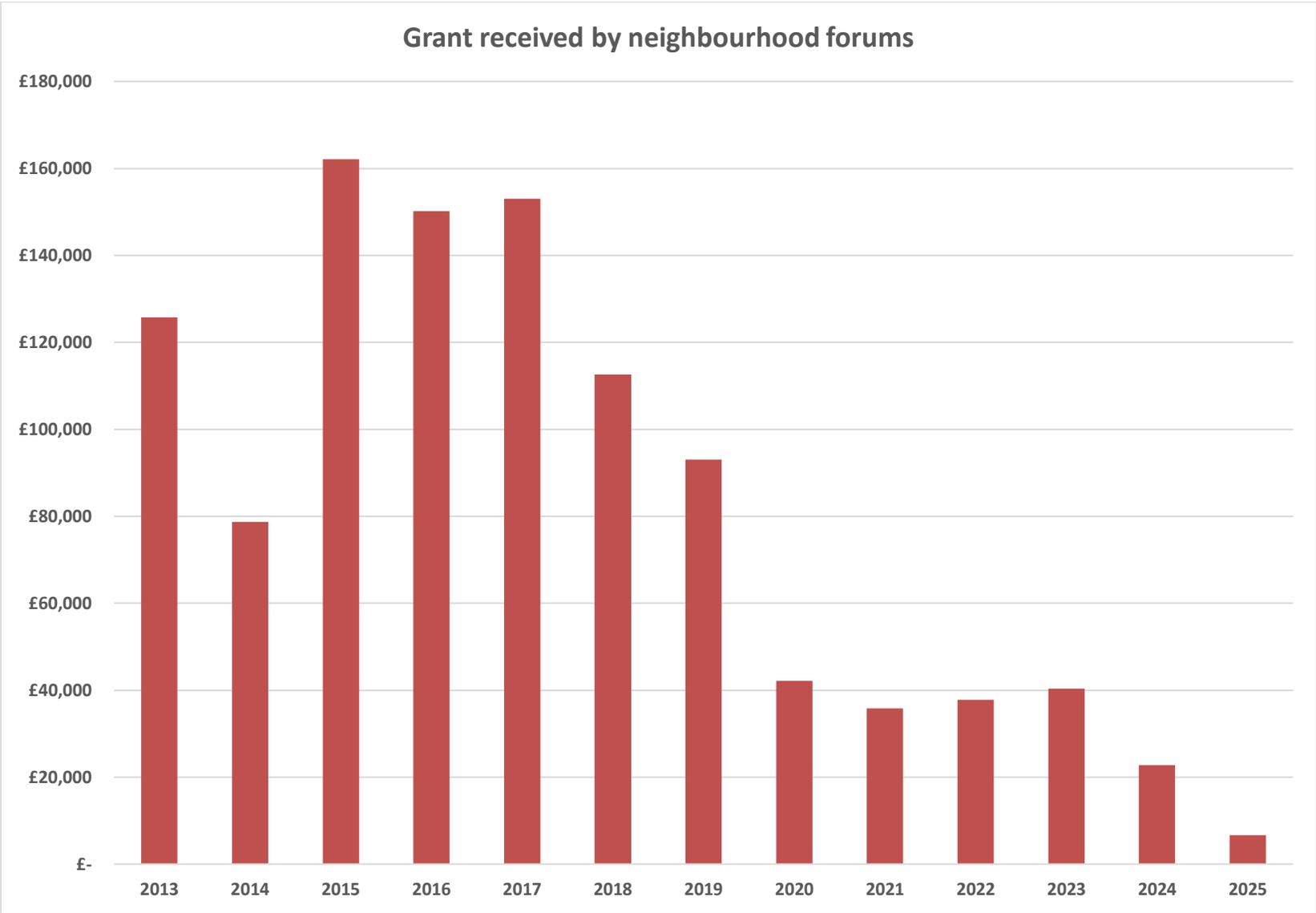
£1,061,003

**Grant support to London's  
neighbourhood forums  
2013-2025**

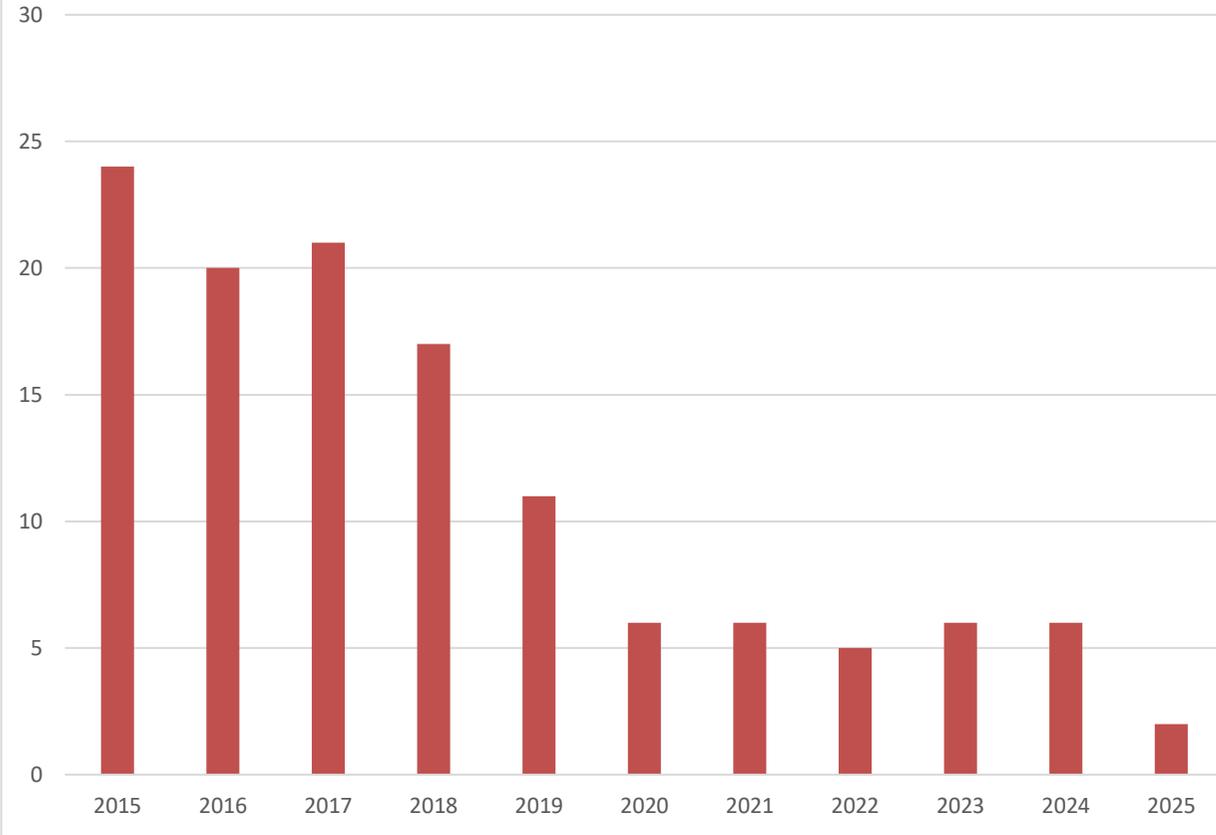
£1,660,000

**Government grant to support  
London boroughs with  
neighbourhood planning  
2012-2025**





## Number of technical support packages received by London neighbourhood forums



## Technical support provided

- Forum development
- Site assessment/sustainability
- Evidence base and policy review
- Heritage and character assessment
- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Neighbourhood master planning
- Plan and site viability
- Design including Design Codes
- Technical facilitation
- Housing Needs Assessment
- Plan Health Check
- Masterplanning
- Setting up a Neighbourhood Planning Group
- Site Options and Assessment
- Facilitation Days
- NDO Facilitation



Neighbourhood Planners.London exists to support neighbourhood planners in London and raise the profile of neighbourhood planning in the capital. We stand ready to provide this volunteer support when the Government returns to providing neighbourhood planners with the support needed to enable communities to exercise their planning rights wherever they live.



[www.neighbourhoodplanners.london](http://www.neighbourhoodplanners.london)



[info@neighbourhoodplanners.london](mailto:info@neighbourhoodplanners.london)



<https://x.com/NPlannersLondon> @NPlannersLondon

