



## **PLANNING FOR LONDON PROGRAMME**

### **Views from Neighbourhood Planners.London**

**January 2022**

*"It is crucial that all those involved in planning and development in London understand how London's three-tier planning system works (including regional, local and neighbourhood planning)"*

Paragraph 0.0.26, The London Plan, March 2021

*"Neighbourhood planning clearly provides benefits to communities and the built environment where conditions are supportive"*

Impacts of Neighbourhood Planning in England, Final report to MHCLG, University of Reading, October 2020

1. Neighbourhood Planners.London exists to support neighbourhood planners in London and raise the profile of neighbourhood planning in the capital. We're a voluntary initiative set up in 2016 in response to direct experience of the first wave of neighbourhood planning in London. We maintain the definitive [MAP](#) and [LIST](#) of what is going on with neighbourhood forums and areas across London, publish research, convene events, inform public and policy debate, provide informal advice and keep neighbourhood planners in touch with each other.
2. We welcome the "Planning for London Programme" gathering views ahead of the next review of the London Plan. It is essential that this is done in as open and inclusive a way as possible. The quality of the next London Plan depends in large part on the process through which it is prepared and an ability to hear from different voices across the capital. We are concerned that this first call for "*gathering evidence and the views of Londoners*" has been passive and received little publicity. Even interested organisations and individuals first learnt of it only a month before the closing date. It would be helpful to see wide public engagement on the process and timetable for the next stages of the review.

3. Our submission responds to the request for evidence in the light of this being the first London Plan review to begin when neighbourhood planning provides a mature component of the development plans across London. 25 neighbourhood plans have already been made in the capital and there is a strong pipeline of future plans. This also supports the ambition to “reach a more diverse range of Londoners”. We believe the next London Plan should be informed more by the priorities and approach developed through neighbourhood planning and recognise its critical role in securing plan delivery. This will help to address a blindspot in the current London Plan which addresses only the role of Borough Local Plan in delivery when there is an increasingly three tier development plan system in the capital.

4. We have produced the following evidence (with links) on neighbourhood planning in the capital which we commend to the process:

[DESIGNATION DECISIONS: London's neighbourhood planning experience - February 2021](#)

Research into the often challenging experience of communities seeking designation of a neighbourhood area or forum, including details on every London local planning authority

[STATE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING IN LONDON - 2019](#)

Our first report showing the state of play in London

[NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING IN LONDON: investigating its potential in areas experiencing high levels of deprivation - May 2019](#)

A significant research project undertaken by Publica for Neighbourhood Planners. London with support from Trust for London. Includes case studies

[STATEMENTS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - are London's working for neighbourhood planning? November 2018](#)

A review of how Statements of Community Involvement in London are responding to new legal requirements to support neighbourhood planning

[ESTATE REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING - note of roundtable - March 2018](#)

The outcomes of a discussion on the role of neighbourhood planning in estate renewal and regeneration

[LONDON'S LOCAL PLANS - are they supporting neighbourhood planning - March 2017](#)

This is the first review of how the Local Plans prepared by London Boroughs are addressing neighbourhood plans. We also review the contribution of Local Plan Inspectors. Our overall

conclusion is that Local Plan treatment of neighbourhood planning is, at best, patchy, and we make recommendations to secure more effective support.

[NEIGHBOURHOOD ELEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - the London experience - September 2016](#)

This report reviews the relationship between the community infrastructure levy and neighbourhood plans with recommendations for the Mayor, London Councils and central government.

5. Additionally we commend the London Assembly's report on [Neighbourhood Planning – progress and insights](#) (March 2020). This calls on the Mayor to provide explicit support for neighbourhood planning, including through the London Plan. We also share the expectation that London will have no desert boroughs by the time of the next London Plan where no neighbourhood planning exists. This will require an acceptance of neighbourhood planning in seven boroughs where it does not currently occur.

## Neighbourhood Planners.London



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



<https://twitter.com/nplannerslondon> @NPlannersLondon



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