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**NPS &
NP:L**

Neighbourhood planning

- Author of numerous Neighbourhood Planning outputs
- Including the 2020 INPE report for MHCLG / DLUHC
- Involved in advice to DLUHC on planning reform
- Might be interested in short piece in T&CP March/April 2022 →



Levelling up and neighbourhoods

- White paper - Feb 2022
- Neighbourhoods mentioned x55 times
- Light on detail...but therefore scope to engage...

‘There is an indication... that local agencies and planning authorities will need to be better at listening to communities and engaging with civil society to identify priorities, assets, and the policies and other actions needed to strengthen ‘community infrastructure’ (Parker, Sturzaker and Wargent, 2022: p100)

Neighbourhood Priority Statements

- Levelling Up White Paper notes on NPS:

As well as giving neighbourhood plans greater weight in planning decisions, the Bill will increase the accessibility of neighbourhood planning by allowing parish councils and neighbourhood forums to produce a simpler 'neighbourhood priorities statement' which the local authority will be obliged to take into account when preparing its local plan.

Neighbourhood Priority Statements

- Where did this idea spring from?
 - Wider issues with lack of trust
 - Lack of integration between local plans and NDPs
 - Narrow focus of NDPs (i.e. land use planning and non-strat)
- Recommendation #8 in 2020 INPE report and:
A common criticism was duplication of policies and MHCLG could find ways of better aligning / integrating Local Plans and NP processes – through clearer ongoing communications between LPAs and neighbourhood planning groups (Parker et al, 2020: p5)

Questions - NPS

- Who is eligible to produce a NPS – Forum / Parish Council
- How will it be produced? (basis)
 - What forms of QA might be involved?...
- What will the scope be?
- When (i.e. stage of NP / Stage of LP)
- Format (i.e. to ease absorption by LPA)
- Function...
 - Difference between this and a ‘local plan submission’?

Issues - NPS

- Legitimacy
- Scope
- Clarity
- Timing
- Transparency of action / response



NP:L and NPS

- Might be good to start shaping some 'straw man' NPSs?
 - See what they may look like...
 - Uncover issues and further questions for DLUHC
 - Act to pre-figure actual shape and characteristics of NPS...
- Recommend these 'straw men' NPS are done by Forums that have completed or near completion of a NDP.
- I recommend that NPs have a strong underpinning of community evidence else they be discounted (or ultimately removed as a tool)