

COLIN BUCHANAN

neighbourhood planning



Key points arising from local authority survey

A quarter of all LPAs that responded intend to apply for Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard

- 50% of these are entirely parished; 33% partially parished; 17% unparished

A quarter of all LPAs that responded had received Expressions of Interest in producing Neighbourhood Plans / Orders from one or more neighbourhoods

- These were a mix of urban and rural neighbourhoods (<50% exclusively rural)

Majority of respondents agree that parishes, where they exist, are the most appropriate areas for Neighbourhood Planning

- Number of authorities unclear how to define neighbourhoods in urban / suburban areas
- A couple of authorities have identified potential tensions where different settlements in the same parish may have contrasting objectives

90% of respondents intend to fulfil their duty to support neighbourhood planning through use of officers rather than appointing consultants or offer direct financial support

- A large number of respondents have highlighted the resource implications of providing this support within the context of funding constraints
- Many respondents see this as placing an additional burden on local authorities

Majority (65%) of LPAs anticipate Neighbourhood Plans taking over one year to prepare, more than one in five (23%) of respondents estimating they may take over 2 years

- Some respondents consider that length of preparation will vary depending on the previous experience of the relevant Parish / Forum.

30% of respondents will consider preparing Neighbourhood Plans in advance of the adoption of a Core Strategy

- This raises questions about how such plans will be assessed
- Will this provide more scope for communities to resist development (contrary to Government objectives)
- A number of respondents anticipate some disappointment/disillusionment when neighbourhoods realise that their plans must be in conformity with Core Strategy (is this really localism – or top down planning)?
- For majority the Core Strategy remains the priority
- One authority noted that Neighbourhood Development Orders may be preferable depending on the objectives of the community as they should be easier and quicker to bring forward as they do not need to relate to an adopted or up-to-date plan

Contact us

To find out more, to learn how we can help you or to register for future Neighbourhood Planning updates and news, please contact:

Jon Herbert

E: jon.herbert@cbuchanan.co.uk

T: 020 7053 1492

John Pounder

E: john.pounder@cbuchanan.co.uk

T: 020 7053 1489

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Notes

48 responses (19%) - including at least one from all 9 English Regions.

We have received responses from every region in England, including London (both inner and outer) - the respondents reflect a mix of urban, rural, prosperous and poor areas.