THE STATE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING IN LONDON
2018/19

May 2019
INTRODUCTION

In 2018 Publica was commissioned by Neighbourhood Planners London, a volunteer organisation supporting neighbourhood planners across London, to undertake research into the state of neighbourhood planning in London. This document is the first in a series of similar reports which will be produced each spring by Neighbourhood Planners London, providing insights into the spread and progress of neighbourhood planning in London. Each report will cover the financial year, April 1st to March 31st.

Since the introduction of neighbourhood planning with the 2011 Localism Act, many of London’s communities have seized the opportunity to begin developing neighbourhood plans for their local area. London’s fast-paced regeneration, a densely-developed urban fabric, and the complexity of neighbourhood planning in a three-tier planning system make for a unique context in which to undertake neighbourhood planning.

Across London, the trend is for steady progress in neighbourhood planning activity. The number of completed, or ‘made’ neighbourhood plans is on the rise, with greater numbers reaching completion each year. Currently, London has 12 ‘made’ plans across seven boroughs, with more expected to reach ‘made’ status in 2019. Notable amongst these is Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum, whose neighbourhood plan referendum is scheduled for May 2019.

All figures included in this report are correct to 1st April 2019. All data sourced from local authority websites, Locality and Neighbourhood Planners London.
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LONDON HAS TWELVE ‘MADE’ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

FOUR OF THEM ARE IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS HAVE RECEIVED FUNDING FROM LOCALITY 2013–2018

NINE OUT OF 33 BOROUGHS IN LONDON ARE ‘NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING DESERTS’ WITH NO DESIGNATED NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS

THE NUMBER OF NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS DESIGNATED (BY FINANCIAL YEAR) HAS DECLINED SINCE 2015

HOWEVER THE NUMBER OF ‘MADE’ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS IS GROWING, AND THE NUMBER OF COMPLETIONS PER (FINANCIAL) YEAR IS ALSO INCREASING

THE AVERAGE DURATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING FOR LONDON FORUMS IS 49 MONTHS (DESIGNATION TO REFERENDUM)
Early interest
Applied for designation
Developing draft neighbourhood plan
Pre-submission consultation
Plan submitted to LPA
Examination
Plan made
Other

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREAS IN LONDON

Note: this map is available online at https://www.neighbourhoodplanners.london/map
BOROUGHS WITH NO CURRENT FORUMS DESIGNATED

Note: although the Greater Carpenters Neighbourhood Forum appears to be inside Newham, its local planning authority is the London Legacy Development Corporation, which means Newham is counted as a ‘desert’
Neighbourhood Planners.London exists to support neighbourhood planners in London and raise the profile of neighbourhood planning in the capital. Neighbourhood Planners.London is a volunteer-run initiative set up in response to direct experience of the first wave of neighbourhood planning in London and the recognised benefits of neighbourhood planners getting together to share knowledge and experience.

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