



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING'S POTENTIAL IN AREAS OF LONDON EXPERIENCING POVERTY AND DEPRIVATION

Research brief – May 2018

1. This brief is to invite bids to undertake a research project on neighbourhood planning in London's areas of poverty and deprivation.

Background

2. Neighbourhood Planners.London is the volunteer run network for all engaged with neighbourhood planning in the capital. We are a response to the demand for opportunities to network, share information, provide support and strengthen the voice of neighbourhood planning in London.

3. The network has identified four areas as a priority for support:

1. Online resource of information and examples
2. Provide a voice to Government and London-wide bodies (e.g. TfL, GLA)
3. Organise networking events
4. Provide a simple website with details of London Neighbourhood Forums

4. Our activities include:

- Establishing and running a website as a shared resource supporting neighbourhood planners, including guidance, information and a blog
- Creating and managing the definitive map and list of neighbourhood forums and neighbourhood areas in London, including information on their progress and contact details – over 100 communities and over 50 neighbourhood forums
- Producing a Bulletin providing information and updates for the neighbourhood planning community with a circulation of over 500
- Undertaking significant research projects on topical issues, including neighbourhood planning's relationship with Local Plans and with the Community Infrastructure Levy
- Running an annual conference – attracting c140 participants
- Organising workshops on topical issues and informal gatherings
- Raising the profile of neighbourhood planning with key decisions makers

5. More information and copies of our research reports and other initiatives is available on our website (www.neighbourhoodplanners.london) and we have an active presence on twitter (@NPlannersLondon).

6. We have been successful with an application for funding to Trust for London to research the opportunities for neighbourhood planning in areas experiencing poverty and deprivation. This has

been supported by Centre for London which manages our grant under an agreed Memorandum of Understanding.

Research project

7. We wish to understand the incidence of neighbourhood planning in areas of London experiencing poverty and deprivation (to be defined), gain insights as to its potential and identify ways in which it can be strengthened. This will require a combination of qualitative and quantitative research and an understanding of the growth of neighbourhood planning across all parts of London. The project will influence public and policy debate around neighbourhood planning and strengthen the role of Neighbourhood Planners.London in supporting its role.

8. We envisage an approach along the following lines (with priorities indicated by *italics*):
- Literature review of the growth of neighbourhood planning, with an emphasis on unparished areas experiencing deprivation and poverty
 - *Mapping and measuring the take up of neighbourhood planning across London and the penetration into areas experiencing poverty and deprivation in London*
 - *Profiling the people and organisations leading on neighbourhood planning in areas experiencing poverty and deprivation and the stories of their routes to participation*
 - Understanding the role of external support and advice in these areas
 - Identifying the particular role and potential of neighbourhood planning in estate regeneration and renewal
 - Identifying locations and organisations in other parts of urban England with relevant experience and using these as a source of insight and collaboration
 - *Collaborative discussion to establish priorities for strengthening the role of neighbourhood planning in areas experiencing poverty and deprivation drawing on the emerging findings, including the role Neighbourhood Planners.London can play – this is likely to include up to four meetings/gatherings of volunteers drawn from areas experiencing poverty and deprivation and other gatherings of neighbourhood planners and interested organisations*

Outputs

9. The main outputs are:
- Neighbourhood Planning in London – research report (for publication) on its role and potential in areas experiencing deprivation and poverty, with recommendations
 - State of neighbourhood planning – media friendly report in a format that can be repeated annually by a volunteer led Neighbourhood Planners.London after the project has completed
 - Profiles & examples of neighbourhood planning & the stories of key volunteers in areas experiencing poverty and deprivation – for inclusion in the reports and for freestanding use
 - Supplementary proposals on the role of Neighbourhood Planners.London and how it might develop to most effectively support neighbourhood planning across the capital
 - Updated online MAP and LIST (working with Neighbourhood Planners.London volunteers)

- Presentations and discussion of the research approach and results at Neighbourhood Planners.London and other events – up to four

How to bid

10. To bid for this project please provide a proposal outlining:
 - The approach that you would take to the commission
 - The relevant experience and resources that project team members will bring
 - Your project plan for delivering the project, including any quality assurance
 - Risks associated with the project and how you would address them
11. Bids can be made by individuals or teams.
12. The project is anticipated to last six months with an interim report to the Neighbourhood Planners.London Convenors Group midway.
13. There will be a need for an inception discussion with the Convenors Group and regular contact to ensure the project is developing in a way that aligns with our needs. The final products should be fit for publication. The maximum price for the project is £13,000 including VAT. The main contact with Neighbourhood Planners.London will be Tony Burton.
14. It is anticipated that payment will be in two tranches – at mid-point review and final product.
15. Proposals should be sent to info@neighbourhoodplanners.london by 20 June and please email or speak to Tony Burton (info@neighbourhoodplanners.london 07810 657729) if you have any queries.