

DLP Planning Ltd and the **Public Sector**



“DLP Planning Ltd offer excellent planning advice to all our clients. Our dedicated public sector team brings together the skills and experience that are most valuable to public sector clients, in order to provide sound and robust planning advice on Development Plans, Applications and Appeals.”

Public Sector Lead Director: Paul Jobson

DLP Planning Ltd (DLP) is one of the UK’s largest independent planning consultancies and has been providing expert planning advice to a range of private, public and community clients from our offices across England for over 25 years.

Our dedicated Public Sector Planning Team provides support to public sector clients for plan making, policy and development advice. The team brings together senior staff from across the company who have specialist experience in plan making, policy preparation and supporting evidence-based studies.

Team members have each worked within and alongside both public and private organisations and we consider this cross-sector experience invaluable to ensure a robust understanding of the pressures, constraints and opportunities faced by local planning authorities. We understand the capacity pressures faced by local government and we have the experience and flexibility to step in with tailored services.

We offer a high-quality, cost-efficient service, utilising the team’s experience and technical skills, to deliver a robustly tested and tailored approach which successfully meets each client’s brief.



Local Plan Services

Government policy is keenly focused on achieving Local Plan coverage across England and with that an increase to the delivery of housing. This demands a robust and sound approach to Local Plan preparation, to ensure delays and modification to key parts of the Plan are avoided. The DLP team are exceptionally experienced in plan preparation, policy writing and evidence base production, and can demonstrate a detailed understanding of what is required to support the adoption of a sound Plan. Our broad areas of service include:

Local Plans & Supplementary Planning Documents:

- Whole Plan Production: complete project management, policy development and consultation
- Project Management: navigating the various policy and legal requirements to ensure key deadlines are met and necessary processes are undertaken
- Vision, Strategy and Policy Advice: setting out what the Plan should achieve and confirm the policy can achieve this
- Critical Friend Reviews and Appraisals of Policy: identifying potential issues and offering advice before documents are put out for public consultation
- Duty to Co-operate and Strategic Planning: identifying strategic issues, working with neighbouring authorities and assisting to achieve positive outcomes
- Appearing at Local Plan Examination Hearings: utilising our experience of appearing in excess of 30 Local Plan Examinations, advising and preparing responses to Inspector's questions issues
- Member and Officer Training Sessions: covering introductions to the planning system, to workshops on specific matters
- Neighbourhood Planning: working with a wide range of community groups, Town and Parish Councils on a diverse range of issues



Local Plan Project Management:

Ashfield District Council

DLP supported Ashfield District Council with the final stages of the preparation of their Local Plan, its submission and then examination effectively fulfilling the role of a Local Plan Manager. DLP worked closely with the Council over a 14 month period, project managing the final public consultation and submission of the Plan, the appointment of a Programme Officer and the arrangement of hearing sessions. DLP then led on the preparation of responses to the Inspector's questions and led the Council at hearing sessions. Following the close of the hearings we assisted the Council in producing clarification statements and then, in collaboration with the Inspector, the preparation of Main Modifications.

Examination in Public:

London Plan

DLP was appointed by London Councils to support and represent them at the Examination in Public of the draft London Plan. London Councils are a cross party organisation that represents all of London's 32 boroughs, the City of London and the development corporations. DLP prepared detailed written statements in response to the panel of Inspector's matters and attended various hearing sessions, in order to provide professional planning support to London Councils ensuring their views on important planning issues were taken fully into account by the panel.

Critical Friend Assessment of Local Plans:

DLP have provided critical friend advice to Local Planning Authorities both directly and via the Planning Advisory Service on a range of issues including Local Plan project management, infrastructure delivery, community infrastructure levy, site selection, sustainability appraisal, settlement hierarchy, employment land, SHELAA and Green Belt reviews.

DLP recently undertook a critical friend review of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Local Plan, prior to the Council's regulation 19 public consultation. The review focussed upon the Council's site selection methodology and associated evidence base, such as the SHLAA, Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Sustainability Appraisal.

DLP's review for Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council considered their strategic housing allocations, all of which involved alterations to the Green Belt boundary and required the provision of new infrastructure. Our expertise guided the Council through the process of demonstrating that the loss of a large Council owned Golf Course was acceptable. DLP successfully represented the Council at the hearing sessions and demonstrated to the Inspector that the allocation was sound and justified by the Council's evidence base.



Planning Evidence Services

DLP can undertake a variety of planning evidence studies on behalf of Local Planning Authorities utilising our analytical expertise. DLP has a strong track record of producing robust evidence with a clear rationale to guide the decision-making process. Our broad areas of service include:

Planning Policy Evidence Studies and Advice:

- Green Belt Reviews: Strategic Assessments, Reviews and Site Assessments
- Housing Needs Assessments
- Specialist Housing Need Assessments: elderly, local affordable housing
- Economic Needs Assessment and Economic Impact Assessments
- Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessments and Urban Capacity Studies
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Site Selection Methodology for all development types
- Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Identification Assessments
- Infrastructure Delivery and Viability support



Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (HELAA): Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

DLP was commissioned to undertake a joint HELAA on behalf of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council. The borough has a tight administrative boundary and increasing demands for housing to meet defined needs. This required a thorough and robust assessment of all potential housing opportunities, including the potential release of employment sites and public open space, prior to the consideration of Green Belt releases and duty to co-operate conversations.



Green Belt Assessment: Amber Valley Borough Council

DLP was appointed by the Council to undertake a strategic level Green Belt assessment during their Local Plan Examination. The main purpose of the project was to identify Green Belt parcels and assess how they performed against the five purposes as set in the NPPF. In addition to this a review of all existing boundaries and an assessment of washed over villages was undertaken. Following completion of the Strategic Assessment, DLP then undertook further work to assess the potential impact on areas of Green Belt being released for development purposes; this considered the impact upon individual parcels and also the wider strategic function of the Green Belt.



Gypsy and Traveller Site Identification Study: North Devon District Council and Torridge District Council

DLP completed a Gypsy and Traveller Site Identification study for North Devon and Torridge Councils. This study required detailed, collaborative working with the Councils to identify and assess a potential supply of suitable sites to allocate. DLP was able to offer recommendations on sites for further consideration, potential policy criteria and delivery/funding options.

D2N2 Infrastructure Plan: Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire LEP

On behalf of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership, DLP was appointed to assess the impact of the delivery of key infrastructure projects to achieve the housing and job growth aspirations for the D2N2 area. The Infrastructure Plan collated evidence from across 19 local authority areas and other infrastructure providers, to support the economic ambitions of the LEP as defined in the Strategic Economic Plan and Local Plans of the constituent planning authorities.



Development Management Services

DLP has experience of acting on behalf of Local Planning Authorities in the determination of applications, and acting as expert witness at informal hearings and public inquiries.

DLP has comprehensive experience in using databases and development management tools such as Uniform and can integrate into Councils' management timetables and delivery schedules. Working with leading Counsel we have appeared on behalf of Local Planning Authorities on matters of general planning, infrastructure, housing and employment need, housing and employment supply and gypsy and traveller matters. Our broad areas of service include:

Development Management Support:

- Acting on behalf of the Council in the determination of applications
- Acting on behalf of the Council in the management of appeals, including expert witness for public inquiry appeals
- 5 year housing land supply assessments to defend speculative appeals



Development Management Framework Support:

Maidstone Borough Council

DLP is currently framework consultant to the Council providing development management support, acting as case officer for planning applications to ensure the Council continues to meet its performance standards. Our experience of a wide variety of development types and scales has enabled us to handle and determine a wide variety of applications submitted to the Council and provide a professional and responsive service.

Planning Appeals and Public Inquiry Support:

DLP has a range of experience allowing us to appear as expert witness on a variety of matters, such as: general planning, infrastructure, housing and employment needs and supply, and gypsy and traveller matters.

Mid Suffolk and Babergh Appeal Support

DLP has been retained by both Councils to act as planning expert witness on all major public inquiries and all 'over turned' appeals. In addition to this DLP is also retained to act as expert witness for both Councils on housing land supply matters.

For each appeal we will work closely with the Council and appointed Counsel, project managing the process, corresponding with the appellant and the Planning Inspectorate, preparing briefing notes for Counsel and assisting with the appointment of expert witnesses. Our experience of presenting evidence at inquiry has been welcomed by the Council and has been beneficial in ensuring Planning Committee decisions have been upheld.

Regarding the 5 year housing land supply, we have worked with both Councils on numerous appeals and have prepared updated housing land supply position statements that are in accordance with the NPPF and PPG. The updated NPPF makes the demonstration of a 5 year housing land supply more onerous for the local planning authority, and our work is helping the Councils to have a significantly more robust approach to calculating land supply.

Newark and Sherwood District Council Gypsy and Traveller Appeals

DLP are currently appointed by Newark and Sherwood District Council to provide support at a Gypsy and Traveller Appeal Hearing. The appeal follows the issue of two separate enforcement notices against an alleged breach of planning control. The appointment follows on from previous successful appeal support relating to another Gypsy and Traveller site in the Green Belt. The DLP team have an excellent understanding of Gypsy and Traveller planning issues which can provide valuable insights for our clients.



Recent Clients

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“ DLP Planning Ltd’s public sector team are committed to offering excellent advice and support to our clients. We enjoy supporting the public sector with our extensive knowledge and experience – we would be delighted to work with existing and new clients across the UK.”

Strategic Planning Director: Alex Roberts



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If you would like to contact our public sector team please email publicsector@dlpconsultants.co.uk



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