

Appendix 3. Planning Aid

RESTRICTED – POLICY

To: Secretary of State

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Date:

25 May 1010

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SPENDING APPROVALS (POST 1 JANUARY 2010) AND PILOTS REVIEW

Issue

1. The Chief Secretary has written to members of Cabinet asking them to re-examine spending approvals given since 1 January this year, as well as re-evaluate pilot schemes within Departments:
 - the requirement to **review spending approvals** applies to all approvals made between 1 January and the election on 6 May;
 - the requirement to **re-examine pilot schemes** applies to all pilots, regardless of when they were approved.

This note describes the work we have done to date and sets out the next steps.

Timing

2. Routine – the Chief Secretary has requested that all spending decisions requiring re-evaluation by HM Treasury are submitted for examination by Friday 28 May.

Recommendation

3. That you consider the attached tables listings all Ministerial decisions made since 1 January 2010 and note the next steps:
 - your Ministerial team to **review spending decisions** requiring HMT approval in the course of this week and provide recommendations to you on each;
 - the Department's Analyst Quartet (Chief Economist, Chief Scientist, Chief Social Researcher and Chief Scientists) to review **departmental pilot schemes** to ensure they are affordable, consistent with the Government's priorities and the methodology is sufficiently robust. Where this is not the case they will recommend changes or stopping the pilot.

RESTRICTED – POLICY

Consideration

Spending Approvals – Communities and Local Government Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)

4. We have identified 132 decisions taken by previous Ministers between 1 January 2010 and the election, of which 84 affect funding in 2010-11 or beyond to a value of £3,266m. The full list is at **Annex A**.

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Country	Year	Population (millions)	Urban population (millions)	Urban population (%)	Population density (per sq km)	Urban population density (per sq km)
Algeria	1990	10.1	5.1	50.5	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2000	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2005	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2010	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2015	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2020	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2025	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2030	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2035	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2040	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2045	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2050	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2055	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2060	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2065	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2070	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2075	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2080	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2085	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2090	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2095	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2100	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2105	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2110	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2115	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2120	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2125	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2130	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2135	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2140	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2145	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2150	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2155	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2160	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2165	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2170	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2175	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2180	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2185	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2190	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2195	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2200	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2205	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2210	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2215	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2220	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2225	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2230	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2235	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2240	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2245	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2250	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2255	11.1	6.1	54.9	10.1	10.1
Algeria	2260	11.1</				

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RESTRICTED - POLICY

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RESTRICTED – POLICY

[REDACTED]

Next Steps

18. We propose to send summary information on each spending approval to the relevant Ministers in your team for consideration and recommendation on next steps.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From:

Location:

Tel:

Date:

3 June 2010

Copies:

SPENDING APPROVALS (POST 1 JANUARY 2010) – THOSE NOT REQUIRING TREASURY APPROVAL

Issue

1. This note sets out the outstanding decisions made by previous Ministers which require your consideration. These are highlighted yellow in the attached table which is based on material submitted to you on 25 May – any updates are marked in red text.
2. Further advice from the lead policy Director is attached where they consider there is insufficient information in the table to take decisions.

Recommendation

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No.	Neil ref	Fully spent to date?	Supporting advice	Minister	Director	Title	Summary	Plans (£m)		Resource / Capital?	Approved by Ministers?	To be submitted to Ministers for consideration
								2009-10	2010-11			
	30				Greg Clark		Implementing Planning Reforms - Community Engagement	Funding for Planning Aid is an element of the Community Engagement programme. Planning Aid provides free and independent planning advice to individuals and community groups otherwise unable to afford it.		4.500	Resource	Approved 11th March

4.500

Other text omitted.

HMT clearance		Contractual position	Actual expenditure (£m)		Impact of stopping now
General	Grant agreement cleared with HMT?		2009-10	2010-11	
-		Grant agreement in place with Planning Aid (signed 25 March)			0.970
<p>Planning Aid specifically helps those who are financially disadvantaged or from socially excluded backgrounds e.g. voluntary and community organisations, black and minority ethnic groups and older people. Planning Aid has increased its engagement programme and some 37,946 individuals and 1,092 organisations/groups have been assisted with casework community planning in 2009/10. Not supporting Planning Aid would mean the loss of free independent support to disadvantaged individuals and community groups that helps them engage with the Planning system. Planning Aid employs some 60 staff, a cut in grant would mean redundancies.</p>					
<p>Y (S304A, Town and Country Planning Act 1990)</p>					

0.970

To: P/S Greg Clark

From: [REDACTED]

Location: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Date: 3 June 2010

PLANNING PROGRAMME SPENDING APPROVALS (POST 1 JANUARY 2010)

Issue

1. The Chief Secretary has written to members of Cabinet asking them to re-examine spending approvals given since 1 January this year, as well as re-evaluate pilot schemes within Departments:
 - the requirement to **review spending approvals** applies to all approvals made between 1 January and the election on 6 May;
 - this submission concerns the Planning programmes

You have already reviewed the most urgent cases that require resubmission to Treasury. This note provides supplementary information to support your decision on remaining approvals.

Timing

2. Routine

Recommendation

3. That you:
 - review the attached annex;
 - agree to the spend proposals.

Consideration

4. This concerns a mixture of contractually committed programmes totalling £6.55m and un-committed programmes or smaller projects totalling £1.360m. The contractually committed programmes consist of Planning Aid, Planning Bursaries and the Regional Aggregate Working Party. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The attached Annex sets out the details of the programmes in more detail. In view of the legal commitments, the value for money, the promotion of localism and the potential for adverse reaction from delivery partners to withdrawal/cancellation of funding we recommend that you agree to all of these spending proposals.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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4. *Approval No. 30: Implementing Planning Reform – Community Engagement - Planning Aid*

- £4.5m is contractually committed and a signed Grant agreement is in place with the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). £1m spent to date in this financial year.
- **What the programme delivers, the benefits and value for money.** Planning Aid has overall aims to empower individuals, groups and communities from disadvantaged and socially excluded backgrounds to effectively participate in the planning process. It plays an important role in helping to achieve a fairer planning system; one which is open, transparent, accessible, inclusive, democratic and has greater public support. The work of Planning Aid is delivered through a combination of casework support, community planning initiatives, capacity building, partnership working and skills development. Over the last three years it has helped nearly 100,000 individuals to engage with and influence the planning system and help to shape the places where they live. The programme delivery is managed on a local basis with the majority of Planning Aid staff (80%) based in regions, many working directly within the neighbourhoods they serve. The success is based on the support of over 1,200 volunteers, mostly chartered Town Planners, who have collectively contributed over 15,000hrs of unpaid time in 2009/2010. This means that for every pound the government invests, Planning Aid is able to almost double this through the use of volunteer time and expertise, promoting localism.
- **Risks if the programme was reduced or cancelled.** There are both financial and reputational risks associated with a reduction in the service during the current year. An early exit from the programme would see additional contractual costs for staffing, business premises, suppliers, etc, scalable up to £470,000 dependant upon the level of reduction. There will also be implications for the RTPI as the umbrella organisation for Planning Aid. In order to mitigate future risk associated with its grant dependant proportion of its income, Planning Aid is currently developing a funding diversification strategy which may progress incrementally post 2011/12 earliest. A reduction in funding in 2010/11 would also mean that the existing levels of engagement and support for individuals and neighbourhoods could not be maintained. The loss of regional offices, some of which were established over 20 years ago, would impact on

community planning, the communities and individuals they have supported and the volunteers who have given their time to work with them. Presentational, Greg Clark has been invited to attend the June RTPT conference and Bob Neill may consider attending the launch of Planning Aid's Good Practice Guide to Public Engagement.

- **How the programme fits with government priorities / strategic fit.** Through its work Planning Aid is able to raise public awareness and support the better understanding of issues which affect development; for example the need for new infrastructure to meet national and local needs, economic development, environmental constraints, and climate change mitigation. There would be reputational risk for the new government which not only promotes localism and the ability of neighbourhoods to shape the future of their areas, but also puts charities and volunteering at the heart of the 'Big Society, if Planning Aid was to be scaled down. Planning Aid is a leading advocate of good community engagement, providing Good Practice advice on the need for early engagement and showing how it can result in better decisions, reduce conflict and avoid costly delays – all key components for economic recovery. The work of Planning Aid England and Planning Aid for London can be mapped against the key themes contained within the 'Big Society'.
- **Affordability.** The £4.5m is committed within the budget allocation for the Implementing Planning Reform programme – Community Engagement workstream.

[REDACTED]

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To: PS/Greg Clark

From:

Location:

Tel:

Date:

Copies:

11 June 2010

PS/Eric Pickles

PS/Bob Neil

PDDMs

PS/Advisers

PLANNING DIRECTORATE SPEND APPROVALS - REMAINING CASES FOR REVIEW

Issue

Further to [REDACTED] submission of yesterday which covered the organisation and staffing of Planning Directorate, this submission provides the further information and advice you requested on specific approvals covered by the submission of 3 June from [REDACTED]

Summary of recommendations

Of the six programmes covered in the attached annex; we are recommending the following:

- One is discontinued (approval 10);
- Four where savings are recommended, totalling £0.8 million (approvals 15, 30, 56 and 64)
- One where we will shortly provide further advice on the case for funding (approval 3)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

4. Approval No. 30: Implementing Planning Reform – Community Engagement - Planning Aid

You asked if this could be reduced and requested a more comprehensive review of this with recommendations.

- £4.5m is contractually committed in 2010/11 and a signed Grant agreement is in place with the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). £1m spent to date in this financial year.
- Planning Aid (PA) provides support to enable hard-to-reach groups from disadvantaged and socially excluded backgrounds to engage more effectively with the planning system. For example, they have run projects to engage with black and minority ethnic groups, young people, disabled people or tenants in particular localities; and experience shows there is a demand for such community professional planning assistance, which supports the localism agenda. Whilst any cut in PA funding would reduce the services PA can provide to these groups and neighbourhoods and could raise equalities issues, we have asked PA to look at efficiency savings that could be made in the current year whilst maintaining their ability to meet the key contracted targets which support this agenda.
- By not filling some posts and making savings in running costs PA have suggested that a £450k (10%) cut in this year's grant allocation from £4.5m to £4.05m could be achieved. The impact of these cost savings would be to stop paid support for community engagement on Major Infrastructure projects and to reduce partnership working and awareness raising by 10% (a reduction of an estimated 50 events or activities and support for some 825 individuals/groups due to loss of staff). PA would try to counterbalance this by increased volunteer recruitment. **Although we judge that at least in the short term this would reduce the level of service Planning Aid provides individuals and**

ANNEX

local communities we recommend that, if you wish to reduce funding in the current year, you consider a 10% reduction in funding. Anything above this would significantly impact the services provided. We will provide advice in the near future based on a review of options for future years.

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02 July 2010

PS/Eric Pickles

PS/Bob Neil

PS/Permanent Secretary

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PS/Advisers

PLANNING AID - PLANNING DIRECTORATE SPEND APPROVALS

Summary

1. Further to [REDACTED] submission of 11 June, you asked for further information on funding options for Planning Aid. You will also be considering Planning Aid in the context of the Spending Review on Monday.
2. I would be very happy to discuss this with you.

Timing

3. The next quarterly grant payment is now due. Planning Aid urgently need to know their position so they can plan accordingly.

Recommendations

4. You asked that we submit more comprehensive and detailed options, including options for larger savings through to Planning Aid being abolished. The options are set out at point 8 in the attached Annex. We are recommending the following:
 - a 10% reduction in funding in 2010/11,
 - and within this revised budget greater resources to be directed at neighbourhood outreach.
5. The attached Annex sets out more detail.

[REDACTED]

Background

1. Planning Aid is a charitable trust affiliated to the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and at present entirely funded by CLG. Without CLG funding Planning Aid would have to find funding from elsewhere or be wound down as it is unlikely that they would be able to find alternative funding this financial year. Planning Aid supports local people and local communities, and in particular the hard to reach and disadvantaged. In this way communities can exercise real influence over the future development of their neighbourhoods in a positive, informed, inclusive and balanced manner. Often it is the Local Planning Authority which directs the applicant to Planning Aid who then support the individual or group with their own planning application or help them to engage with other local applications such as housing.
2. This community empowerment activity is delivered by over 1,200 volunteers (chartered town planners and planning professionals) who offer their expertise and knowledge free of charge to help those who cannot afford professional advice. In doing so they take back their experiences and the training provided by Planning Aid to their organisations. This work is supported by a small professional staff team.
3. Anyone can have 15 minutes of free advice from Planning Aid but otherwise unless they are from one of the target groups they are advised to seek professional advice from a Planning consultant.
4. There is a contractually binding grant letter in place committing CLG to funding of £4.5m in 2010/11. £1m has been spent to date in this financial year and the next grant payment is due on 1 July. In view of the contractual commitment, to cease funding Planning Aid would require an exit strategy with a redundancy programme, the cost of which would need to be borne by CLG.

Consideration

Value Added

5. A significant factor in providing value for money is the number of people Planning Aid support who are part of the 'wider' community; this is difficult to measure as not every participant at a community event or in community casework is recorded. To illustrate the extra reach that Planning Aid achieves, of the 2,755 groups that received either planning advice or attended a community event last year, on the basis that each group consisted of 25 members, an estimated 68,875 people received help. This is in addition to the 38,000 individuals who received help and advice. In providing this total service Planning Aid helped 106,875 people last year and for every £1 of public funding Planning Aid added an in-kind benefit of £5 through the use of its volunteers. This £ 5:1 ratio represents good value for money.

Delivering Localism

6. Planning Aid recognises that whilst people have different knowledge and abilities to enable them to engage, they all share a detailed local knowledge of the issues which affect their local neighbourhood. Planning Aid can help even the most disadvantaged with engaging with the planning system. For example an individual or community group seeking assistance will be assigned a local chartered planner who will provide advice until the planning application has been concluded. In this way inhabitants will always be provided assistance on a local basis with local knowledge to support more informed decisions about the future of local neighbourhoods. All through the process Planning Aid will engage with a group in such a way that the group can take ownership of their own planning process, providing embedded skills in the community to reduce their future reliance on Planning Aid. Last year Planning Aid was very involved in the consultations on National Planning Statements including events, producing leaflets and web-based material which helped disadvantaged groups engage in the process.
7. The legacy of Planning Aid's work can often extend beyond the initial involvement in planning into improved engagement by the hard to reach groups it serves in other aspects of local service provision. Planning Aid provides an independent, impartial and professional support to a section of society that otherwise would not be enabled to engage with the planning system. This supports the Governments objectives for greater community engagement in the planning process.

2010/11 Funding Options

8. You are asked to consider the following funding options for this current financial year:

Option1 - Delivering more with the currently contracted funding - £4.5m

9. Planning Aid is well placed to support a return of power to local communities. This could be undertaken with a new outreach service which would be developed to provide ongoing support. This approach would improve capacity within the planning fraternity in support of inclusive engagement, by expanding on the advice Planning Aid provides to local authorities and others on good practice engagement with local people.

Option 2 - 10% Reduction from £4.5m to £4.05m

10. A £450k (10%) cut in this year's grant allocation from £4.5m to £4.05m could be achieved through efficiency savings realised as a result of improved systems, processes, and halt of recruitment to planned new posts. Support for communities to engage with the successor to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) would be scaled back.
11. You asked for details of the 50 events previously proposed as cuts to achieve the 10% saving. These would have been the anticipated events run by the IPC for consultation with communities on infrastructure projects and which are not now needed. Planning Aid would still maintain its support in the consultation on National Policy Statements.

12. It's envisaged that even with a 10% cut Planning Aid could be asked to examine through management efficiency savings extending the neighbourhood outreach of its service by increasing the number of community planners in localities.

Option 3 - 20% Reduction from £4.5m to £3.6m

13. To scale back the operations to this level we would need to negotiate reduced contracted targets with Planning Aid. For example we would need to agree a reduction in the level of planning case work for individuals and number of neighbourhood planning events. The cost reduction would be achieved by not filling forthcoming vacancies, not renewing staff contracts that end during the period and by reducing the number of local offices. This would of course reduce the service Planning Aid provides and the precise effects of the reduction in outputs would need to be worked up.
14. Any reduction in the current year funding in excess of 20% would leave the Planning Aid service unsustainable.

Option 4 - Complete Withdrawal of Funding During 2010/11

15. A negotiated and planned exit strategy would need to be developed and undertaken in order to wind down the Planning Aid service. There would be liabilities due to contractual commitments this financial year which would need to be borne by CLG. The effect of a withdrawal in funding would be to immediately stop the service delivered by Planning Aid.
16. We recommend Option 2 as a means of making savings and being able to maintain the service Planning Aid provides.

To: PS/Greg Clark

From:

Location:

Tel:

Date: 09 July 2010

PLANNING AID - PLANNING DIRECTORATE SPEND APPROVALS

Summary

1. Further to [REDACTED] submission of 2nd July, you asked for further information on funding options for Planning Aid in future years.

Timing

2. Not urgent: if you agree the recommendations a further submission will be presented giving options for the level and extent of future service provision. You have agreed this financial year's funding.

Recommendations

3. That we agree to fund Planning Aid for a further 3 years subject to
 - A detailed analysis of the service that can be provided with different funding levels.
 - A review of how the service is targeted to allow access to be more widely available to community users.
4. The attached Annex sets out more detail.

[REDACTED]

Introduction

- 1 Planning Aid has to date been a service targeted at deprived and hard to reach groups who would not access the services of the private sector planning consultancies and who often feel alienated from the decisions being taken by Local Planning Authorities on their behalf. Planning Aid provides professional, impartial and independent advice and as such has the confidence of these disadvantaged groups. As the client base has no funds to pay for these services (a prerequisite of the service being provided) there is no means to charge for the support and since 2003 the government has supported this service.
- 2 It is appropriate to challenge this delivery model at this time. Although Planning Aid was aimed initially to encourage more community engagement in planning and a deeper understanding of how to get involved in planning applications; there is greater opportunity for Planning Aid and to support the government's current localism agenda by providing advice and guidance to communities and individuals. This will enable them to both build neighbourhood plans and create the environment where the development is welcomed and sought. This is not a service which benefits local authorities. There is therefore no incentive for them to pay for the service. The public benefit from the service and it is for that reason government has seen the benefits of financially supporting it.

Budget

- 3 In order to operate at the lowest community level the Planning Aid Service (based on 2009/10 figures) operates through 9 offices co-ordinated through a National office. A separate London based service is also provided. Planning Aid argue that this service arrangement allows them to best serve the client base at the lowest point of engagement.
- 4 Ministers have already decided to reduce this year's budget to £3.6m and this will mean that the service will need to find £900.000 of operational savings this year. Half of that saving is predicted to be achieved through efficiency savings but the remainder will need to be found from a combination of savings on salaries and service provision.

Further Provisions

- 5 You have asked if the service can be totally self funding and we do not think it can be. If we believe there is merit in supporting communities to be involved in the planning decisions that affects their lives, we need to continue some level of financial support. We recommend however that we discuss with Planning Aid how a re-moduled service could be delivered for less. We can ask what the service would look like with a support grant of £3.4m, £3.2m, and £3.0m per annum.
- 6 This work would enable an informed decision to be made about the level of service we are prepared to support and the VFM that this would provide.

Additionally it is proposed that we challenge Planning Aid on who uses their service to try and ensure that the service is available to those who need it.

7 Do you agree with this approach?

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From: PSGregClark
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2010 11:23 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Submission on spending approvals

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

No.30

- Please submit more comprehensive and detailed options, including options for larger savings and abolishment. Also, what are the '50 events' referred to in the third bullet

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: PSGregClark
Sent: Monday, July 05, 2010 5:57 PM
To: [REDACTED] PSGregClark; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; PSAdvisers; PSEricPickles; PSBobNeill; PSPermanentSecretary;
PDDMs_EH
Subject: RE: Planning Aid - Planning Directorate Spend Approvals Submission

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your submission which the Minister has considered. He has decided to go for option 3 (i.e. a 20% cut this year) but would also like you to urgently review how to remove all CLG funding from this in future years. He feels that if Local Authorities find it useful they should subscribe to it. Can you please proceed with option 3 and provide advice on the review by 2pm on Friday 9 July.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Private Secretary -- The Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP
[REDACTED]

CLG staff: For Box times [click here](#)

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From: PSGregClark
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2010 9:24 AM
To: [REDACTED] PSGregClark
Cc: PSEricPickles; PSBobNelli; PSPermanentSecretary; PSAdvisers; PDDMs_EH [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Planning Aid Future Funding.

[REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay in responding, Greg has now considered this submission and has commented as follows:

Greg does not agree with your recommendation to continue funding Planning Aid. We should use the budget for planning aid to support the development of community plans.

How we do this will be considered as part of Bill preparation. A 20% cut should be announced at the time of the Spending Review.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Assistant Private Secretary to The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Minister for Decentralisation
DCLG
[REDACTED]

CLG staff: For Box times [click here](#)

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2010 6:33 PM
To: PSGregClark
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Planning Aid Future Funding.

[REDACTED]
We have some questions on the minister's comments:

"Greg does not agree with your recommendation to continue funding Planning Aid. We should use the budget for planning aid to support the development of community plans."

Q: The original sub at para 2 of the annex we suggest the support of community planning should be the main focus of Planning Aids work. Does the minister want Planning Aid to support the development of community plans with our funding support? Or is this money to be used for community plan work which Planning Aid might "bid for"? Or should we tell planning Aid they need to wind up? The Minister needs to be sighted on the original advice where we advised that there would be costs arising if Planning Aid were to stop delivering the agenda we asked them to help with and that we may need to build in an "exit funding" strategy. This has been done for other organisations. There are also reputational risks here for CLG and its role in supporting planning.

"How we do this will be considered as part of Bill preparation. A 20% cut should be announced at the time of the Spending Review."

Q: does this mean:

- announcing the already implemented 20% cut for funding in this financial year and no further specific funding for Planning Aid in the SR10 years, (but they might get some of the money if they are commissioned to do such work; or
- a further 20% cut commencing in the first of the SR10 financial years (2011/12) and no funding beyond that or
- a 20% cut in the first of the SR10 financial years and the funding continuing at that level for the remaining SR years

This an area where a face to face meeting would really have helped and I am sorry to come back to you on this (I have seen the handwritten note.) I am now away until 27th Sept ; can you respond to [REDACTED] please.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Communities & Local Government
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: PSGregClark
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2010 2:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]; PSGregClark
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Planning Aid Future Funding.

Planning Aid meeting, Thursday 30th September

Summary of main points:

The Minister confirmed that he did not propose to make further cuts in addition to the first 20% identified, but that Planning Aid should not have exclusive access to the remainder of the funding.

It was discussed how the remaining money could be allocated given that the amounts would be tiny if distributed evenly across the country to individual neighbourhoods. **The Minister asked for a paper on how neighbourhood plans could be financed before making any decisions on how the money would be distributed, and that the Planning Aid budget should form part of this.** He also said that [REDACTED] should ask Planning Aid to come up with suggestions for a programme of how the available funding could be allocated.

[REDACTED] explained he is visiting Dorset DC on Friday, the Minister agreed that it would be a good idea to float ideas off them on how to use the money available this financial year (£3.6m).

It was agreed that [REDACTED] would provide the Minister with a copy of the Headingly neighbourhood plan document to get a conceptual idea of what they could look like.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Assistant Private Secretary to The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Minister for Decentralisation
DCLG
[REDACTED]

CLG staff. For Box times [click here](#)

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