
Session B4: Negotiating the Public Sector Maze

Summary of workshop

Attendees:

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Context

- There is simply too many agencies and regulations to deal with in order to deliver the various components of sustainable communities
- Time, money and valuable resources are being wasted away by an over-bearing complex public sector maze that stifles innovation and flexibility

The issues (challenges and difficulties)

- **Infrastructure Delivery**

Chicken and the egg paradox: how to deliver housing and infrastructure together
S106: complex, tiresome system.

- **Developer Contribution**

How much should the developer contribute? What system should be put in place: do we need to look to Europe?

- **Land-use and Transport Planning Framework**

Divided system: Transport and Works Act Orders are separate from planning permission via the Town and Country Planning Act
Acts as brake on projects in a number of projects

- **Culture and Practice**

Do we need to alter the way society and individuals work and their personal lifestyles? In effect, do we need personal carbon allowances, fiscal penalties/incentives and stronger regulation

- **NIMTO Thinking**

We need to move beyond short term, not in my term of office, thinking. We should have targets set that reflect the need/vision of what we are trying to achieve.

The solutions (options)

- **A Journey Plan to a Carbon Neutral Era**

Each agency needs a journey plan of where it needs to go and what it can achieve. It should have targets set for each year, but also contain an overall vision that can help direct the agency.

- **Move Away from Scapegoats to Champions**

We should not place blame on specific industries but encourage them to work together to bring down their own carbon footprints.

- **Clear Vision and Strong Leadership**

We need to put in place a clear vision backed up a strong set of local charismatic political leaders who can drive carbon neutrality and sustainability forward.

- **Easy Quick Wins**

We should spot easy quick wins and seal them before it is too late. We must move away from grand gestures to practical common sense measures, such as Food Waste Disposal Units and Low Energy Light Bulbs, that can make a difference.

- **Stamp Duty Debate for Eco Home Excellent Standard**

Follow green finance practices of European States, particularly Holland's incentive system

- **Removal of VAT on Retrofitting Buildings**

VAT removal for upgrading private housing stock into super energy efficient stock

- **House Labels**

'A' to 'E' grading system for housing to inform consumers

Examples of good practice (case studies)

- Greenwich Council- Royal Arsenal, London Riverside Pier
- Ireland- Regulation of the *Plastic Bag*
- New Deal for Communities- West Ham & Plaistow NDC's Education-Led regeneration

Examples of Bad Practice

- Patio Heaters: carbon eaters!!
- Low Energy Light bulbs: where is the regulation?
- Policy Fragmentation: Gallions Housing Eco-park Case