

April 2010

Cardiff
Gareth Williams
E: gwilliams@nlppanning.com
T: 029 2043 5880

London
Peter Wilks
E: pwilks@nlppanning.com
T: 020 7837 4477

Manchester
Michael Watts
E: mwatts@nlppanning.com
T: 0161 837 6130

Newcastle
Philip Barnes
E: pbarnes@nlppanning.com
T: 0191 261 5685

NLP to prepare AONB Design Guide

In 1956, the Gower was the first AONB in the country to be designated and - some 54 years later - NLP has been appointed by Swansea Council to prepare a Design Guide in order to manage change and development within this unique maritime area.

NLP Chairman and Project Director Dr Malcolm Hockaday, commented:

"NLP is thrilled with this latest commission, which will enable

us to showcase our own understanding of the importance of design in rural conservation and development. Our work will incorporate specific guidance on how to address current requirements for sustainable construction within an AONB environment."

NLP will be assisted in this 9 month commission by the Bristol-based architectural/environmental firm, White Design, on landscape and sustainability.



Earning a Living in Tower Hamlets: NLP leads on Local Economic Assessment

In February, NLP published research on the key success factors in Local Economic Assessment (LEA) and was appointed the following week to carry out the LEA for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. From April 2010, LEA is a new statutory duty for county and unitary authorities, and NLP's research, which was published through NLP's Targeted Research and Intelligence Programme (TRIP) pointed to LEA being widely recognised as an important work stream, but with varied approaches and progress. The report is available at www.nlppanning.com/lea

NLP's work on the LEA for Tower Hamlets is focused on tackling some of the most acute economic and regeneration challenges in the county, which sit on the doorstep of one of the most vibrant economic centres in the world. Specific considerations include maximising the potential of the 2012 Olympic legacy, demystifying the low carbon

economy, and getting under the skin of the causes of worklessness. Allied to the need to shape and spatialise an economic vision for the Borough, NLP is working to establish an economic narrative; mapping policy, investment and institutional architecture; developing a shared story of place; and setting the agenda for an action plan.



A regional perspective on employment space in the East Midlands

PPS4 defines a new framework for considering the employment space needs of different economic sectors. Combined with the impacts of recession and economic recovery, this has increased the scrutiny of the existing Employment Land Review (ELR) evidence base work

by many local authorities. In this context, NLP has been appointed by EMDA to undertake an audit of the existing ELRs carried out in the region against key policy and economic outcome indicators. NLP will then prepare a model for good practice in updating the assessments where this is necessary.



City by the Sea Masterplan

NLP is delighted to have been commissioned as part of the team which will prepare a Masterplan to guide the regeneration of the North Tyneside Coastal Zone. The area, stretching from North Shields Fish Quay to St Mary's Lighthouse in Whitley Bay, includes high profile historic, ecological and regeneration projects and incorporates one of the principal seaside destinations in the North East.

NLP Senior Associate Director, Andy Groves, stated: "The North Tyneside coastline offers great potential and we are delighted to have been appointed to the partnership to undertake a study which will push regeneration of the area on to a new level".

NLP will be working with SLR Consulting (project leaders), BNP Paribas Estate, PLC Consulting and Faithful+Gould.

NLP Secures New Healthcare Facilities

On behalf of the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, NLP has secured planning permission for an extension to the East Midlands centre for Forensic Health based at Arnold Lodge in Leicester. Modernising mental health services is one of the Government's core health priorities.

Arnold Lodge is situated in a predominantly residential area and NLP co-ordinated a programme of public consultation which sought feedback on the proposals from

the local community.

NLP Director, Michael Watts, commented: "Building upon our growing expertise in healthcare development, NLP is pleased to secure another permission for secure care facilities. As with many current development projects, the key to this success was balancing the need to meet the renewable energy targets set by the development plan with the need to ensure that the scheme remains economically viable".

Recession MOTs for Town Centre Strategies

Due to the effects of the recession and the publication of PPS4 (Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth) on 29 December 2009, NLP has been active in updating previous Town Centre strategies undertaken for local authorities across the country. Recent updates have been, or are being, prepared for Chiltern, LB Enfield, South Bucks, Carmarthenshire, LB Waltham Forest and Wycombe. NLP has also recently completed a retail study refresh for Wokingham

Borough Council.

NLP Town Centre and Retail Director, Peter Wilks, explains, "Forecasts for short and medium term growth have changed significantly over the past 12 months. Local authorities recognise the need to MOT their evidence base studies, in order to ensure their Development Plan remains sound and robust. It is necessary to monitor recent changes and new guidance in PPS4 and amend development strategies if necessary".

Building Schools for the Future

NLP has recently prepared Planning Briefs for up to 12 school sites within LB Waltham Forest as part of its Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme. The Planning Briefs are aimed at guiding the future development of the school sites, which range from the relocation of existing schools to new sites, extensive rebuild and refurbishment as well as small scale extensions. As part of the process, NLP identified the various planning issues and constraints that would be critical to obtaining planning permission, which included playing field designations, flood zones, heritage issues, archaeological areas and metropolitan constraints.

NLP produced an 'opportunities' plan and provided detailed advice in respect of each site to demonstrate how the relevant constraints can be overcome and addressed through design or the

relevant justification that would be required.

NLP has subsequently been instructed to advise on obtaining planning permission for the first of the school sites to be developed. This involves advising the design team to ensure that the proposals will address the key issues and constraints and follow on from the advice contained within the Planning Briefs.

NLP is currently providing similar advice and input into a planning submission to the LB Westminster for the comprehensive redevelopment and provision of replacement schools on a large site within the Borough. This involves extensive discussions and negotiations with the design team and LPA on various issues, including the potential requirement for an environmental impact assessment.



Character Appraisals and Design Guidance for South Lozells, Birmingham

Two character appraisals have been recently prepared for Birmingham City Council to inform significant ongoing investment and regeneration work in South Lozells, part of a Housing Market Renewal Area as well as to assist with the development control process. The conservation area appraisal for the South Lozells and Soho Hill Conservation Area explains the area's historic importance in the

evolution of Birmingham and its special architectural and historic interest. The second appraisal examines the character and qualities of the wider area, identifying features which will be considered in future development proposals.

Work is currently being undertaken on a Conservation Management Plan and Design Guides for the area.