

# Working with Communities on Neighbourhood Planning in Leeds



# Overview

- Introduction to neighbourhood planning
- Neighbourhood planning in Leeds
- The Leeds approach
- Examples of good practice – Holbeck and Walton
- Outcomes
- Key lessons learnt
- Any questions?



# Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning

- Introduced by the Localism Act 2011 as part of a series of new community 'rights'
- Provides opportunities to local communities to shape the development of their area and plans are approved at a local referendum
- Statutory weight given to plans in determining planning applications at the point of a 'yes' vote
- Long-term visioning to support community-led development and regeneration



# Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning

- 1000 plans have been approved at referendum across England, another 2000 in preparation
- Started off as an 'experiment' and is now fully integrated with the statutory planning system
- Government has continued to strengthen neighbourhood planning through national policy updates
- Ongoing review of neighbourhood planning, led by Government and researched by the University of Reading



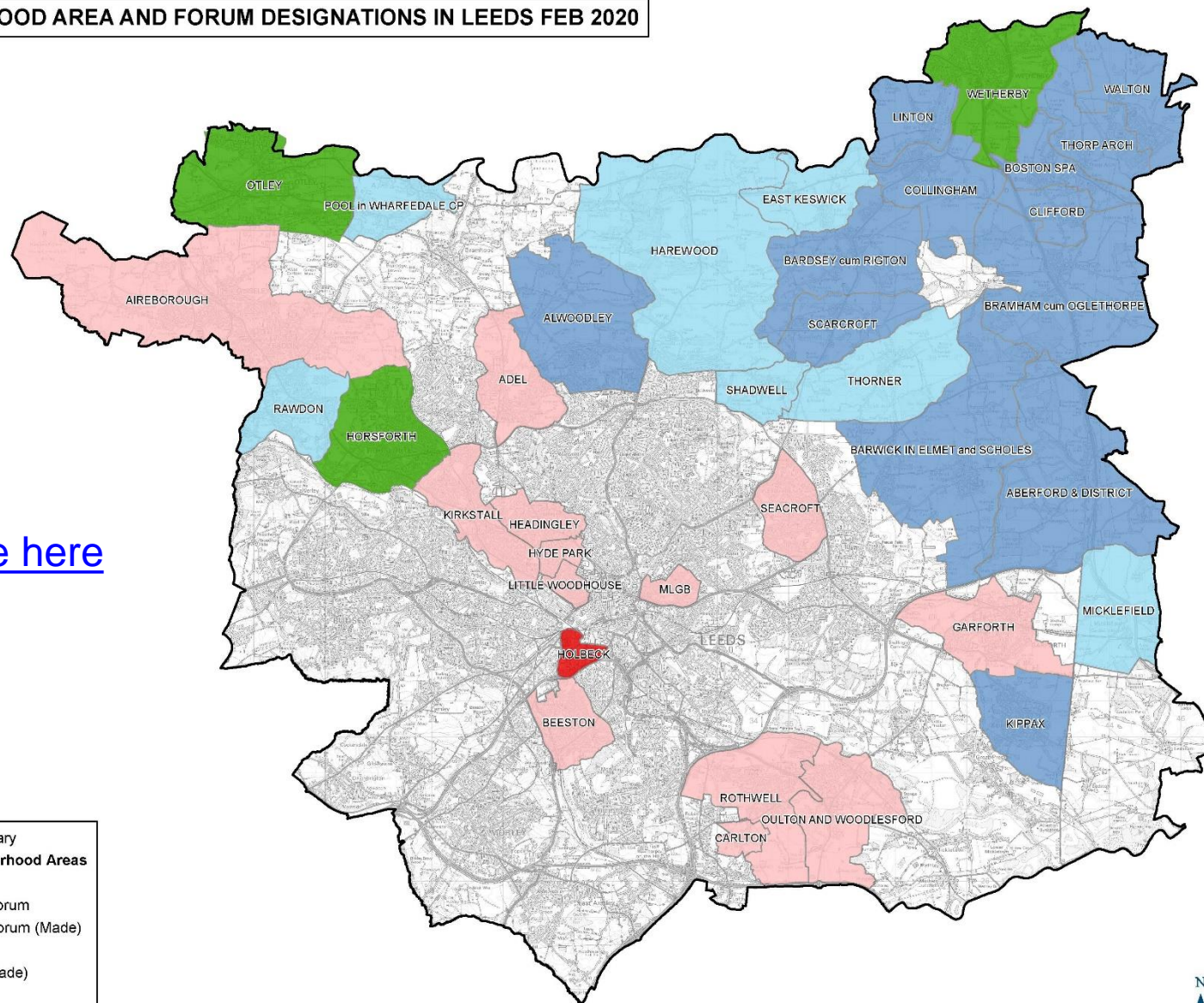


# Neighbourhood Planning in Leeds

- 37 designated neighbourhood planning areas
- 4 potential new areas
- 14 forum areas, 23 parished areas
- Over half of the Leeds district covered by a neighbourhood area designation
- 17 'made' (adopted) neighbourhood plans – the same amount as all of the London Boroughs combined



# NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA AND FORUM DESIGNATIONS IN LEEDS FEB 2020



[Available here](#)

Leeds MD Boundary  
**Designated Neighbourhood Areas**  
**Status**  
 Neighbourhood Forum  
 Neighbourhood Forum (Made)  
 Parish Council  
 Parish Council (Made)  
 Town Council  
 Town Council (Made)



# Neighbourhood Planning in Leeds

- 286 new planning policies in Leeds
- 230 Local Green Spaces designated
- 175 Non-designated heritage assets identified
- Most Leeds NPs don't allocate but 'shape' development sites that have been identified by the Council



# Referendums in Leeds

- 16,560 amount of people have voted in NP referendums in Leeds
- Turnout ranging from 13.9% to 67.7%
- All 17 referendums have resulted in a 'yes' vote
- Proportion of 'yes' vote ranging from 79.64% to 95.97%
- 1 active 'no' campaign
- Voting stats reveal challenges of maintaining engagement over the time it takes to prepare the plan and changing demographics





# The Leeds Approach

- Leader and CEO support for neighbourhood planning
- Cross-party support
- Delegated decision-making
- Dedicated officers
- Links to other services
- Specialist support, enhanced support where needed and justified
- Risk taking
- Website, newsletter, shared learning and resources



# Neighbourhood Plans and Design

Making the most  
of Design  
Opportunities

A toolkit for  
neighbourhood  
planning  
groups



[www.leeds.gov.uk/np](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/np)  
City Development

 **Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL



# Neighbourhood Planning Forums: Overcoming Challenges, Seizing Opportunities

*Bringing together neighbourhood planners from  
Leeds and across the country to inspire, problem  
solve and network.*

Friday 19 October 2018, Civic Hall, Leeds



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY



Leeds  
CITY COUNCIL



Planning Aid

England in Yorkshire

*Engaging Communities in Planning*



# The Leeds Approach

We focus on:

- Capacity – within the group and any other support being provided by consultants
- Partnership and collaboration – opportunities to jointly prepare plans and proposals using skills and experience across all parties, including the voluntary sector and student support
- Delivery – what is it that the groups are seeking to achieve?





# Good Practice: Holbeck and Walton Neighbourhood Plans



# HOLBECK

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



# Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan

**Vision:** To make Holbeck a more attractive and healthier place for everyone, it will have a thriving local centre with a wide range of community facilities, a choice of quality but affordable housing, a variety of local job opportunities, set in a green environment, respecting the heritage and local character of the area, and well connected to the city centre and adjoining neighbourhoods.



# Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan

- ‘Made’ (adopted) March 2018
- An enabling plan to support development and regeneration
- 30 Local Green Spaces designated, 13 non-designated heritage assets identified
- Working with the Forum to implement a ‘priority plan’ focusing on the delivery of NP projects and aspirations









## How we did it: Neighbourhood planning in the inner city

7 March 2019 by Mark Wilding

A neighbourhood plan in a Leeds suburb is aiming to encourage development and revive the local centre, Mark Wilding reports.



Left to right: Alan Lane, artistic director, Slung Low; Abbie Miladinovic, planner, and Ian Mackay, team leader, policy and plans, Leeds City Council; Tony Ray, Planning Aid volunteer; Dennis Kitchen, chair, Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum

**Project:** Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan

**Organisations involved:** Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds City Council, Peter Baker Associates, Planning Aid England.

Once a hive of industry, the inner-city suburb of Holbeck in Leeds has suffered from severe deprivation since going into gradual decline in the early part of the 20th century. In the spring of 2012, Leeds City Council invited Holbeck residents to a meeting to discuss the idea of

### Key lessons

- Focus on relationships to build trust and establish faith in the neighbourhood planning process. "You can't achieve collaboration sitting in front of your computer screen or by sending emails," says Leeds City Council team leader for policy and plans Ian Mackay. "The only way is by spending time with people."



Locality Convention 2019:  
Neighbourhood Planning in the City  
Holbeck, South Leeds



Dennis Kitchen from Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum gives delegates a tour of the neighbourhood

# Dennis Kitchen (Chair)

***‘The endeavours of the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum are by no means a perfect model, but they are loyal to vision to make Holbeck a more attractive and healthier place for everyone.***

***Our community will continue to strive to make a difference and no doubt the way ahead will not be easy but our determination and resolve is undiminished.’***





# Walton Neighbourhood Plan



**Walton**

Neighbourhood  
Development Plan

2017-2033



# Walton Neighbourhood Plan

**Vision:** By 2033 Walton will have maintained its unique identity, its beauty and charm as well as enjoying an enhanced community spirit, resulting from investment in new and existing facilities. New homes will have attracted new residents as well as enabling existing residents to remain in the community. Transformed transport and communications infrastructure will have made Walton an even better place to live and work in than today.



# Walton Neighbourhood Plan

- ‘Made’ (adopted) in October 2018
- The allocation of 3 small housing sites to meet locally-identified need (downsizing opportunities, affordable housing)
- 1 green space designated, 2 more identified to be delivered as part of new housing development
- 2 non-designated heritage assets identified
- Delivery of new footpath and new village green











# Brodie Clark CBE (Chair)

***'The collaboration, the shared commitment, the sense of a common purpose between ourselves and the Council has been inspiring and exemplary.'***

***In truth, we are novices, yet with patience and expertise the Council has helped us secure a technically competent plan that still retains the lifeblood of the village of Walton flowing through it.'***



# Outcomes

- Neighbourhood planning goes beyond planning policy
- Benefits:
  - Relationships
  - Local confidence and resilience
  - Self-sustaining community development (ABCD approach) supported by the Council
  - Identification of projects and local priorities
  - Partnership approach to decision-making



# Key Lessons Learnt

- Important to clarify roles and responsibilities between the group, the local planning authority, and any consultant support
- The value of investing time at the early stages to build up relationships
- Local leadership is critical





# Key Lessons Learnt

- The need for re-engagement with the wider community throughout the plan preparation process
- Everyone can take part in neighbourhood planning, even if they aren't interested in planning policy
- The need to bring other services along on the neighbourhood planning journey, particularly to secure delivery





# Key Lessons Learnt

- The importance of linking up with corporate priorities across the authority to ensure joined-up thinking
- Neighbourhood planning doesn't stop when the plan has been agreed
- Delivering small scale local projects alongside the plan will help to generate and sustain interest



# Any Questions?



# Further Information

- Local Planning Authority websites will identify if there is any neighbourhood planning activity in their areas
- Locality's Neighbourhood Planning website:  
<http://neighbourhoodplanning.org/>
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>
- Planning Aid: <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-advice/about-planning-aid-england/>





# Thanks!

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