

# Communities & the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill

## Tony Burton



The countryside charity



@Tony4Place



National Trust



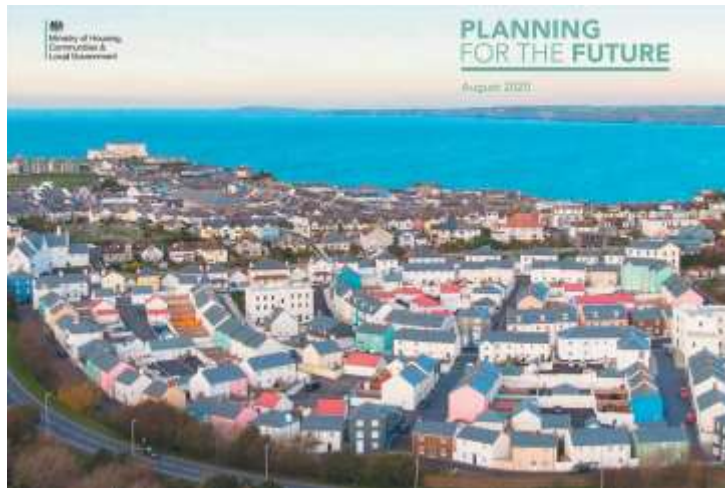
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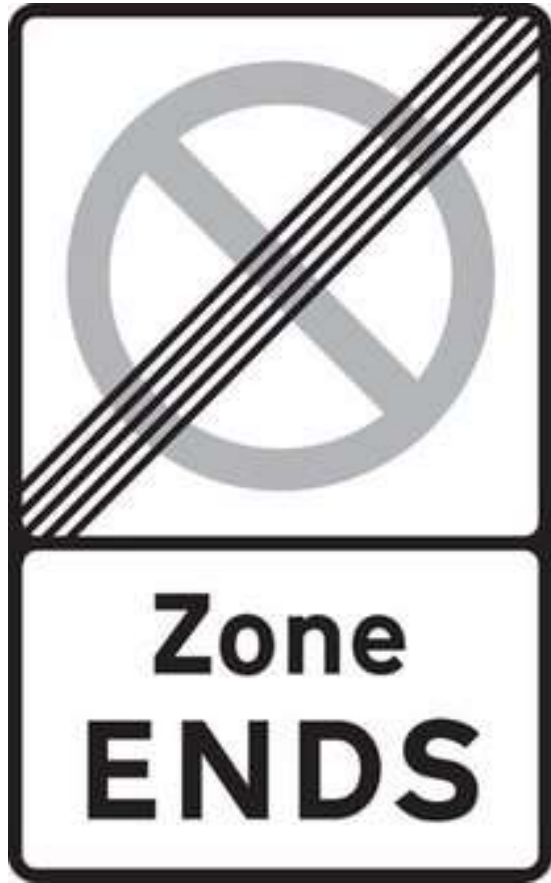


mySociety



Friends of the Earth



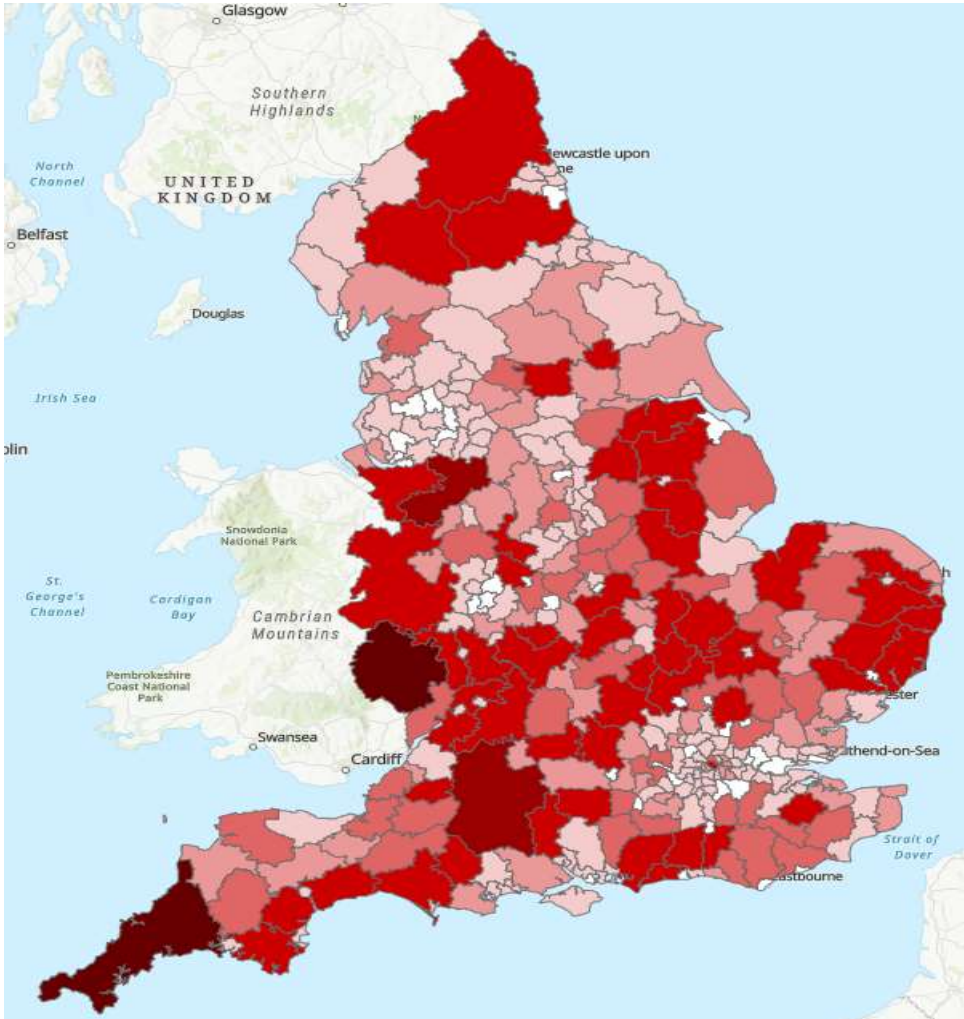


# Neighbourhood planning

Government commits to "*strengthening neighbourhood planning*" and "*give communities a louder voice*"

*plus Street Votes*

# Neighbourhood planning



**2900 communities**

**>75% local authorities**

**>10m people**

**1300 referendums**

**8 failed referendums**

**11 failed Examination**

**Average yes vote 88%**

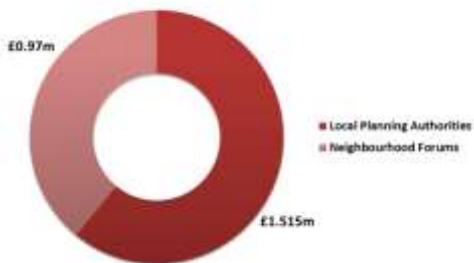
**Average turnout 33%**

**Four times more NPs than Local Plans**



# State of neighbourhood planning in London - 2022

Funding support from Government 2013/14 - 2021/22



26

Number of made neighbourhood plans

+14 Change since 2019

67

Number of neighbourhood forums

-2 Change since 2019

23

Number of local planning authorities without a made neighbourhood plan

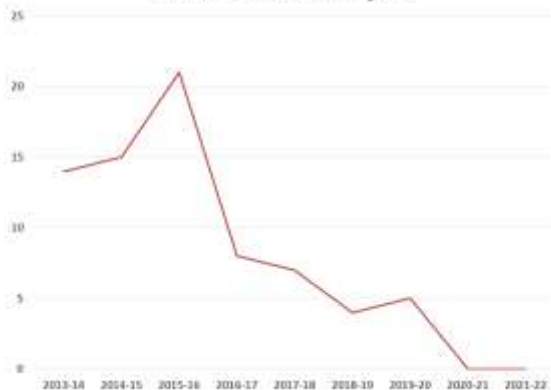
-3 Change since 2019

64 months

Average duration from designation to referendum

+15 Change since 2019

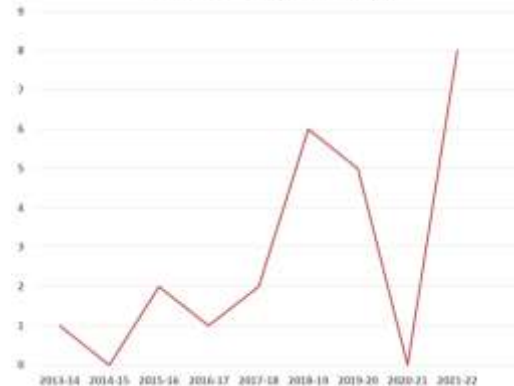
Number of Forums first designated



## Deserts



Neighbourhood plans completed



# Neighbourhood planning provisions

- Legal scope – broad based
- Support addressing climate change
- Tweaks to Basic Conditions
  - Alignment with Local Plans on housing
  - Post SEA “environmental outcomes”

*Relatively minor and inconsequential*

# **Development plan provisions**

- **“strongly” plan-led – applies to neighbourhood plans**
- **More frequent plan review**
- **Impact of National Development Management Policies**
  - **Subsidiarity and universality**



# Neighbourhood planning omissions

- **Extend control over neighbourhood element of Infrastructure Levy to Forums**
- **Strengthen requirements for LPA support**
- **Reduce opportunities for LPA obstruction – e.g. presumption in favour of area designation**

***plus commitment to boosted support programme***

# Neighbourhood Priorities Statement

Any qualifying body may make a statement, to be known as a “neighbourhood priorities statement”, which summarises what the body considers to be the principal needs and prevailing views, of the community in the neighbourhood area in relation to which the body is authorised, in respect of local matters.

“Local matters” are such matters as the Secretary of State may prescribe, relating to—

- (a) development, or the management or use of land, in or affecting the neighbourhood area,
- (b) housing in the neighbourhood area,
- (c) the natural environment in the neighbourhood area,
- (d) the economy in the neighbourhood area,
- (e) public spaces in the neighbourhood area,
- (f) the infrastructure, facilities or services available in the neighbourhood area, or
- (g) other features of the neighbourhood area.

# Neighbourhood priorities statement

- A new right
- Only available to Qualifying Body
- Weak LPA requirement to “*have regard*” when preparing Local Plan
- No detail on process or consultation

# **Neighbourhood priorities statement**

- **Additional, not an alternative**
- **New groups, stuck groups, renewal**
- **Go wider than Local Plans**
- **Needs other measures to raise status of communities in Local Plan making and development management**



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