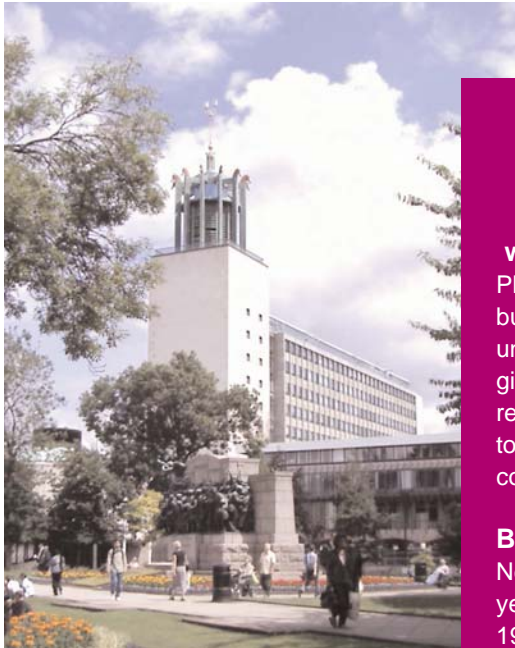


# Newcastle Community Empowerment

## Community Support Project



Engaging Communities in Planning



Planning Aid North provides advice and support to communities to help them have a better understanding of the planning system and how it impacts on their lives. We also help and encourage residents to constructively contribute to the future of their local and regional areas.

During 2006 and 2007, we supported communities in the East and West Ends of Newcastle who were affected by major regeneration. Providing independent support, we helped residents to understand and contribute to the Area Action Plans for Benwell and Scotswood, and Walker Riverside.

The **Newcastle Community Empowerment** project will see Planning Aid North supporting communities city-wide to have a better understanding of the changes to the planning system, some of the key issues and their impact on the future of the City.

## Local communities are being helped to have a greater say in their future

### Introduction

Planning Aid North is delivering a city-wide learning and capacity building programme to help communities to have a better understanding of the planning system, its impact for Newcastle and give residents confidence to contribute to development and regeneration. We work on principles of sustainability and this approach to planning aims to promote sustainable development and community cohesion.

### Background to Newcastle Community Empowerment

Newcastle has experienced significant revival in the past ten to fifteen years, emerging out of the period of industrial decline in the 1970s and 1980s. The city has been subject to a number of urban policies from successive governments, and the lessons learned from the successes and failures have informed a more sustainable approach to regeneration in the city.

Newcastle's Regeneration Strategy sets out how the council along with their partners and the community will drive renewal and development in the next 15 years to create a 'vibrant, safe, inclusive, sustainable and modern European city'. The approach is community-based, city wide, outward looking and about partnership.

Planning Aid North is involved at this stage of regeneration in an attempt to raise awareness and understanding of the vision, approach and actions of Newcastle City Council's strategy. It has been recognised that the engagement of members of the community in local planning and regeneration issues will encourage a cohesive and inclusive community and lead to more sustainable planning designs and decisions. The involvement of community groups and individual members of the community in the planning system allows them to develop an appreciation for their local areas and contribute to the redevelopment and success of city.

The programme is designed to be flexible in order to ensure optimum engagement of the wider community. The initial awareness programme will allow for a better understanding of development plans for the city while the optional training workshops will prepare the participants to constructively contribute to the planning system.

#### Planning Aid North

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## Communities learn about planning

### Structure of the Support Programme

The programme which will be delivered to support communities in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne is as follows:

#### Awareness Programme

Planning Aid North will deliver a series of awareness presentations across the city to community groups. These presentations will help residents to understand the planning system and how they can contribute, the evolution of the Local Development Framework and the impact of key developments. These will include Land Allocations Development Planning Document, Section 106 Agreements, Transportation and Growth Points for housing provision.

The community views of local issues will be fed back to Newcastle City Council to inform future plans and policies

#### Learning Support Programme

Planning Aid North will offer optional training modules for adult members of the community. The following modules will be available:

- An Introduction to the Planning System
- Local Development Frameworks
- The Development Management Process
- The Value of Good Urban Design
- Section 106 Agreements
- Planning and Conservation
- Planning and Development
- Planning and Regeneration

### Planning Aid North Information Leaflets

We have a range of information leaflets on our advice service, communications, community planning, education initiatives, progress and resources, good practice, learning resources, planning knowledge, seminars, topical task sheets and volunteers.

## Young people to have their say about the future of the City

### Planning Your City

Planning Aid North will offer Challenge Days to secondary schools in Newcastle.

The aim of the day is to introduce the students to the principles of planning and regeneration and give them an understanding of current and proposed developments in their area and around the city. The event is an opportunity for the pupils to gain an understanding of sustainable planning along with community needs, safety and environmental issues, and to contribute to the plans and designs of the proposed redevelopment sites in Newcastle city.

Through the investigation of local planning issues and examining real local sites, pupils will become aware of the need for regeneration and the importance of good urban design and environmental planning. Students will gain an understanding of the issues involved in planning and the importance of local input into decision making to meet the different needs of the community. Students will consider issues of site specific land allocations, open space, housing provision, transportation, and character area assessments. Students will be required to consider the needs of the present community and those of future communities.

Further details can be found on the information sheet, 06ER91 - Planning Your City Challenge Day.

