

## PLANNING AID ELIGIBILITY GUIDE FOR CLIENTS

Planning Aid England is a charity offering a service to people who cannot afford to pay professional fees. Our service is therefore targeted towards people on low incomes, and groups or individuals who have traditionally not been involved in the planning system and/or who live within specific regional target areas. The service is operated through a team of paid staff and a network of professionally qualified volunteers. We do not offer our services to other professionals or organisations who can afford to employ professionals.

The criteria we use to decide if you are eligible is set out below.. Please note that even if you are not eligible for further help, we will still be able to offer you 15 minutes of free planning advice.

When you contact us, our staff will need to ask questions about your income to be able to make a full assessment.

Planning Aid England reserves the right to decline or limit the advice or support it offers.

### ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PLANNING ADVICE LINE

Our assessment for help through the Planning Adviceline is based on whether you can afford professional fees and/or whether you will stand to gain financially from our assistance.

#### INDIVIDUALS

##### 1. What household income bracket are you in?

These figures may vary across the country so you will need to select your local region from the table below to see whether you may be eligible. **Don't forget that that even if you do not qualify for our extended service, you can still receive 15 minutes of free planning advice.**

NORTH – £26,000  
NORTH WEST - £33,000  
YORKSHIRE - £29,000  
EAST MIDLANDS - £34,000  
WEST MIDLANDS - £34,000  
EAST OF ENGLAND - £38,000  
SOUTH EAST - £42,000  
SOUTH WEST - £36,000  
SOUTH - £39,000

##### 2. Will you benefit financially from our advice?

Extending or enhancing your home will add to its resale value and so you may benefit financially. You may not be considered eligible for our extended service but will be able to receive our standard 15 minutes of free advice.

##### 3. Have you already received some professional advice, employed – or will be employing – builders or other tradespeople?

You may not be considered eligible for our extended service but will be able to receive our standard 15 minutes of free advice.

## **COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

Advice may also be provided to

- Local charities, social enterprises and voluntary and community groups that have less than six months free reserves (or undesignated funds) or an annual income of less than £10,000
- Those who represent tenants or residents organisations where they could not collectively afford professional help.
- Parish Councils do not qualify for assistance on specific applications but will be offered 15 minutes professional advice. It may be however that our community planning service could help by working with communities within their areas.

## **ELIGIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING**

To make sure that we provide a service to those most in need of our help our community planning service is targeted towards groups who have traditionally not been involved in the planning system and/or live within regionally defined target areas. Please note that the service is not intended to support those groups who have sufficient income and can employ a professional to help them.

In particular we use our specialist skills to work with:

- black and minority ethnic communities, and emerging new communities
- disability groups;
- older peoples groups;
- children and young people;
- neighbourhood groups;
- Community groups
- those who find it difficult to get involved because of language or literacy difficulties
- those who have difficulty accessing information, for instance people who cannot access information due to living in a remote rural location, have no internet access or find it physically difficult to visit Local Authority offices.

Planning Aid England does not offer help to planning consultants and other professional bodies.