



A VISIT TO SCHOOLS

Notes to Town Planners

OBJECTIVE

To introduce Local Plan / LDF and Proposals Map, and explain a bit about how the planning process works in practice

KEY QUESTIONS

- > How is land planned out for future uses?
- > What is Local Plan / LDF (Local Development Framework)?
- > What happens to planning applications when they are sent to the council?
- > Present certificates

SUGGESTED APPROACH

Council Planning Officer Visit - Forward Planning /Development Control

First, after a 'hello' and explaining who you are, and where you work, ask whether the class knows what Planners actually do. Then ask whether anyone can tell you more about how development is planned.

Correct or expand on this information supplied - encourage conversation!

5 minutes **Answer questions as they arise**

Either agree with the class or their teacher that 'hands' will be answered as you go along, not at the end.

This is where you may wish to ask for volunteers from the class to help you open out the adopted Local Plan / LDF Proposals Map to show the class.

10 minutes **Explain the context**

i.e. whole Borough / District / MBC is covered. Explain the colours and policy restrictions, e.g. Green Belt. In the last lesson (Lesson 5) the class fed into planning policy consultation. Refer to and explain how this may influence town centre policy. (Ask if anyone is able to identify where the school is on the map.)

5 minutes

Ask if anyone is able to identify which policies apply to the school using the map and the key.

Link back to Lesson 1 of the class designing their own towns and how land is a resource that must be used in a co-ordinated manner an maximise sustainable development [minimise need to travel, etc.].

10 minutes **Explain how these policies influence planning applications**

Show an example of a real planning application and the plans. A proposal that involves a civic building or something that they may more easily relate to, e.g. skate park, fast food place, may generate more interest. Show where this application is on the map. Will it be appropriate there?

10 minutes **Feedback**

Then provide feedback on how the class did in Lesson 1 with their designs of their own towns. Good opportunity to link reality to their work and present certificates.

45 minutes **Timing**

The visit will probably need to fit into a timetabled school lesson of about 45 minutes. After your introduction by the teacher [5 minutes] and showing the Proposals Map, Local Plan or LDF and planning application, (about 10 minutes each item) there may be little time for anything else.