

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

Most people don't know about planning, about the way our city develops: it's an invisible system.

'Planning speak' is a disguise - it's actually about housing and your high street and playgrounds etc.

There are good models of community organisation and trade union organising

An urgent need to build a critical mass of community activity

Planning 'consultation' always far too late - notification in the guise of consultation; side-lines community inputs. Developer and planning officers have already agreed the main issues.

Equalities are an afterthought, e.g. Equalities Impact Assessments done later in the process, not at outset

Developers have co-opted the democratic process and language

Conflicts of interest and revolving doors e.g. councillors and officers moving to the planning sector.

WHAT ARE WE PROPOSING?

Everybody should be enabled to have a say and given greater agency

- 1) Communities knowing and engaged - training + information and awareness
- 2) More robust systems in place between Local Authority and people
- 3) Political willpower to drive these

Require councils use tools like Statements of Community Involvement meaningfully

Require Equalities Impact Assessments of each development - this is a council duty, not developer's

Require an early development package from developers

'Social Value Statement' to be produced by the developer

Prevent Council/developer conflicts of interest. EG time period before they move to private sector.

Proposals for a Community Power Act - from Locality and Labour Party (but too top-down approach)?

RECOVERY PLAN - PARTICIPATION/ INCLUSION/ FAIRNESS POLICIES

Policy 5: community spaces

Policy 6: community review panels and citizens assemblies

Policy 7: funding for smaller grassroots organisations

Policy 8: Co-production as a core value

Policy 9: Inclusive consultation from beginning e.g. Co-production with development of public land

Policy 10: supporting local leadership in planning

Policy 11: tackling digital exclusion

Policy 12: variation/choice in participation processes on-line or in-person

Policy 13: strategic role in ensuring publicly accessible wifi

Policy 14: investigating and responding to racial inequalities and patterns of deprivation

Policy 15: Black and minoritised communities

Policy 16: visibility