

Terms of reference: Task and finish group on brownfield policy interactions

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Purpose

Brownfield redevelopment is complex and is reliant on a wide range of interacting Government policies on land use planning, waste, soil, surface water, groundwater, biodiversity and more. Sometimes these interactions work harmoniously and other times they can be competitive or conflicting. The National Brownfield Forum¹ (NBF) will convene a task and finish group for its members to evaluate the relationship between policies and understand what potential impacts they have on brownfield redevelopment in the UK to inform future policy and regulation. The audience for the work includes senior leadership of public and private sector organisations, politicians and those who have an influencing role or interest in policy development and implementation.

Scope

The UK comprises four devolved administrations and a central UK Government. This means the policy landscape differs to a greater or lesser extent in each. The group will focus on England first and look to expand the work to other administrations if the first phase is agreed to produce useful outcomes.

We will identify and evidence Government policies and their interactions that affect brownfield development and produce a set of policy insights on observations made by the group.

We will invite all NBF members to participate in this task and finish group. The plan is for the interactive activities, mainly through online workshops, to take 3 months to complete including producing sharable public outputs. We aim not to duplicate existing/ past evidence and initiatives, and we will work to ensure any overlap is beneficial.

Research questions

¹ The [National Brownfield Forum](#) represents a member group of private and public sector organisations interested in taking an open and forward-looking strategic overview of current and future land use issues.

The task and finish group will focus on specific challenges and to avoid scope creep. To define clear boundaries to the activities, we propose to ask and attempt to answer the following four questions:

1. Which environmental policies are relevant to brownfield land and what is the desired impact of each?
2. How do these policies interact with one and other i.e. are they synergistic, antagonistic, mutualistic or agnostic?
3. Where does evidence of policy impact exist for specific case examples and where are there knowledge gaps?
4. For the examples of policy impact what opportunities/constraints and are there for sustainable brownfield development?

Approach

We will complete our activities within the remit of a task and finish group. This means that we will organise ourselves around these terms of reference and the following activities:

- Convene group and planning (Month 1)
- Workshop to explore Questions 1&2 (Month 2)
- Workshop to explore Questions 3&4 (Month 3)
- Results interpretation workshop (Month 3)
- Draft outputs (Month 3)

Outputs

It is important to produce shareable outputs that are designed to inform future policy and regulation. The outputs will be primarily factual based on the opinions of those who participate in the task and finish group. In line with the Chatham House Rule we will not attribute specific comments or information to individuals or organisation. This approach is designed to encourage open and honest discussions.

The outputs of the task and finish group are planned to include:

- A network diagram/ systems map on policy interactions
- A short briefing note on the context, methods, challenges, and evidence describing our responses to the research questions
- Highlights and policy insights

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