



Natural England and Planning – new ways of working

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Background

- NE promised to deliver substantial reforms following Government's Review of Arms Length Bodies
- Comprehensive Spending Review tasked us with 30% funding cuts
- We are achieving this by:
 - Voluntary redundancy programme
 - Estates review
 - Re-structuring
 - Closer working with Environment Agency and Forestry Commission

New functional structure

- Move from a regional structure to a functional one
- Creation of new teams
 - Land Use (spatial planning)
 - Landscape & Biodiversity
 - Regulation (licensing, enforcement, bat advice)
 - Land Management (agri-environment schemes, SSSIs)
 - Access and Engagement
 - Marine





Land Use Team work

We deliver both statutory and non-statutory services including:

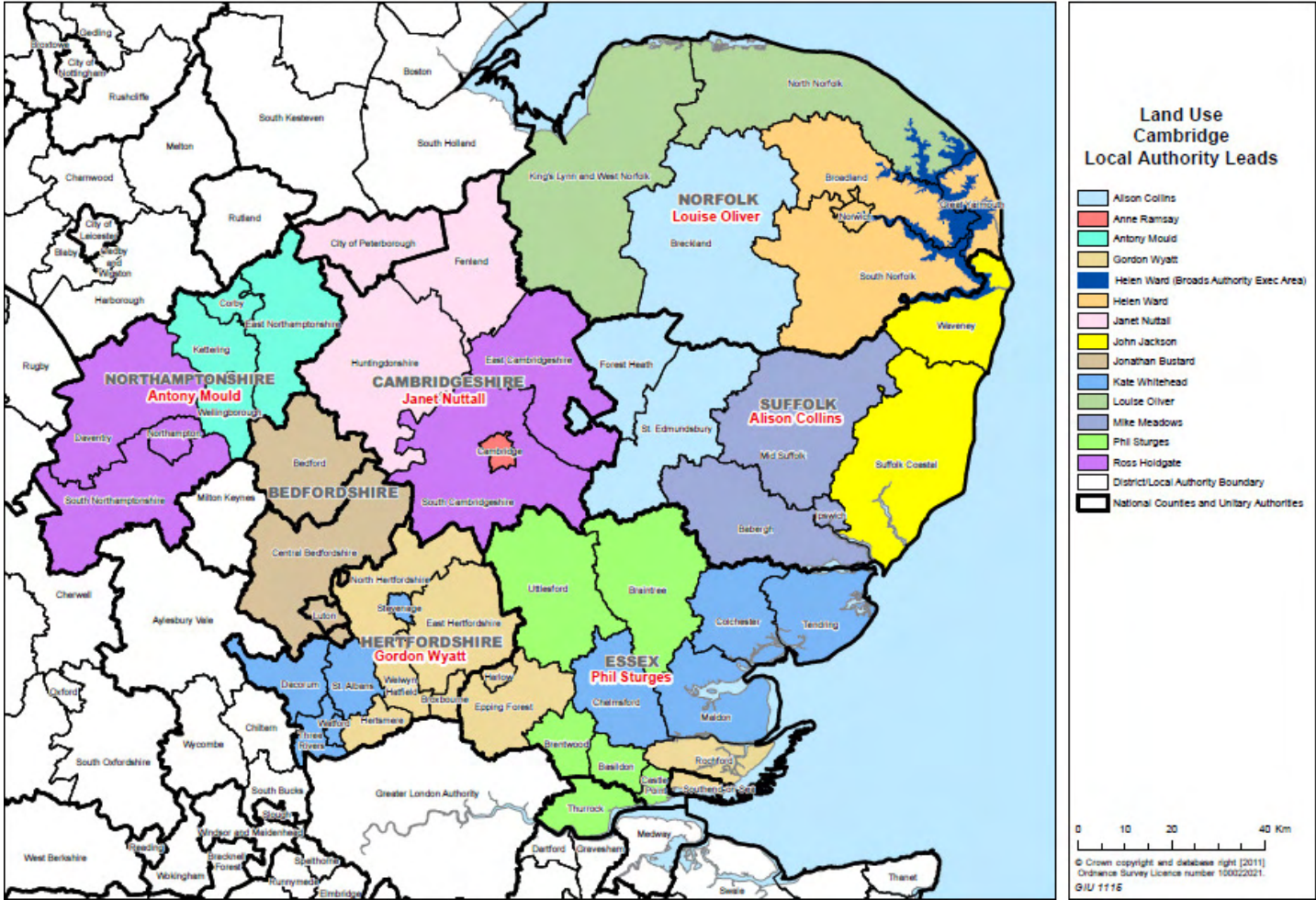
- A new consultation service hub to manage all [land use consultations](#) to agreed timescales and service standards in an efficient and effective way.
- An improved system of national [Standing Advice](#) for development affecting protected species.
- More proactive and bespoke engagement with local government and communities through our [Natural Leaders programme](#).
- A 'Single Voice' (from Natural England, Environment Agency and Forestry Commission) to our customers and stakeholders on certain land use issues and operations.



Consultation hubs

- Consultations from statutory bodies, mainly local planning authorities and Environment Agency
- One email address for all statutory consultations
- consultations@naturalengland.org.uk
- One postal address:
 - Natural England
 - Consultation Service
 - Hornbeam House
 - Electra Way
 - Crewe Business Park
 - Crewe
 - Cheshire CW1 6GJ
- 7 Delivery teams deal with higher risk consultations requiring local knowledge, e.g. LDF documents, EIAs, applications which may affect SSSI features, protected landscapes

Map of Cambridge team patch



Our achievements to date

- Smooth transition to one central point for consultations
- 96% consultations responded to within statutory timescales
- Customer Feedback survey indicated 83% customers are satisfied
- Standardised internal processes
- Increasing volume of cases handled by hubs





What we are working towards

- Development of toolkit in relation to land use planning to enhance our consistency
 - Priorities for national guidance includes bats and small wind turbines
- Access for local authorities to a range of land use training and advisory packages
- 'Single Voice' joint prospectuses for selected higher tier authorities with EA and FC
- Commercial services, charging for pre-application advice
- More proactive engagement with local authorities

Finally:

- For more information:
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>
- If in doubt, please pick up the phone and talk to us!

