

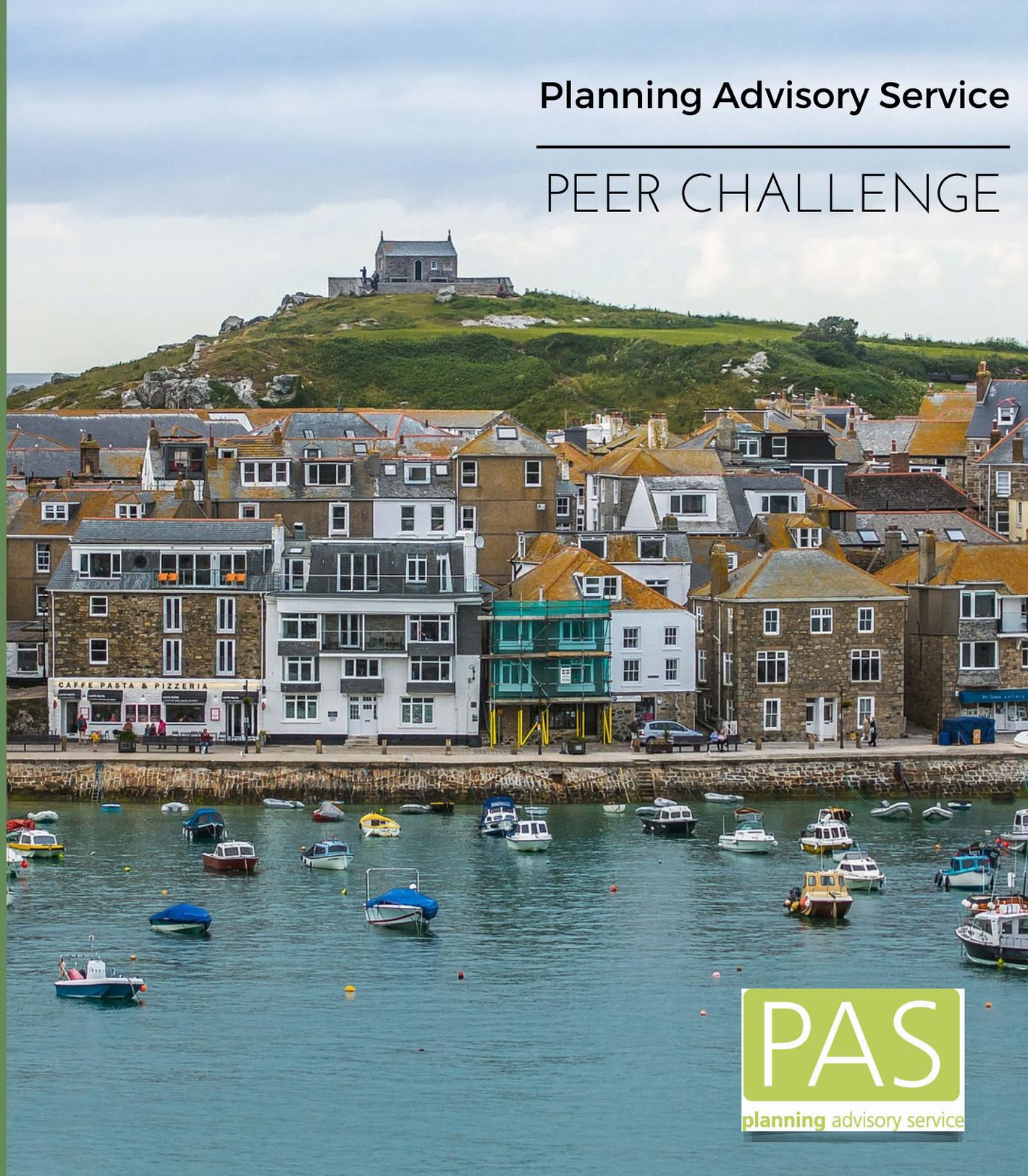
NOW IS THE TIME

Planning is facing significant challenges: with performance scrutiny, working with the NPPF, partnership working with neighbouring authorities and organisations, the community infrastructure levy, neighbourhood planning and the challenges of delivering growth; and all within a challenging period of financial constraint for local authorities.

Now is a good time to make sure that your service is ready to face these challenges.

CORNWALL'S PEER CHALLENGE

Cornwall Council has had two peer challenges since 2012. Watch the video on how the peer challenges have helped them, on www.local.gov.uk/pas



Planning Advisory Service

PEER CHALLENGE



THE PLANNING PEER CHALLENGE

The planning peer challenge is an in-depth assessment of your planning department and how it is functioning.

Organised by the Planning Advisory Service, trained peers help planning services review what they are trying to achieve; how they are going about it; what they are achieving; and what they need to improve.

ALLIES WHO HAVE BEEN THERE BEFORE

We take a flexible approach so we can bring together the right team for your council.

The team usually includes a senior planning officer, a senior councillor with planning experience, a senior planning manager and a LG Group consultant.

We select peers who have years of experience dealing with the issues that you may be facing in your planning service.

WHY HAVE ONE?

A peer challenge is perfect as a health check for your planning department. We know that the confidence in the process and the recommendations is high and the impact on authorities significant.

A peer challenge is not a cure-all, but is an important part of consolidating and assessing any work you've already done or laying the groundwork for making a start in delivering service improvements or change.

WHAT HAPPENS?

Before the challenge takes place, the peers will have been briefed on what your council's goals and objectives are.

The peers would visit you for three days, where they could meet with planning officers, councillors, and external stakeholders such as local developers or parish councils

The peers then issue a detailed report to the local authority four weeks later.

“It was really helpful to have people independent of the authority come from outside and give their views on problems that we already knew we had and suggest solutions... sometimes you can't do that from within”

- Louise Wood

Group Leader, Cornwall Council

“The work that peers do is central to what PAS does as an organisation by enabling local authorities to challenge each other to improve.”

- Steve Barker, Planning Advisory Service