Comparison of Long-Term Plans for Towns (LTP4T) and Plans for Neighbourhoods (PFN)

# Introduction

The Long-Term Plan for Towns (LTP4T) has been replaced by Plans for Neighbourhoods (PFN), which refines the original objectives and interventions to focus on local, community-driven regeneration. PFN builds on the core principles of LTP4T, but it prioritises more immediate, neighbourhood-focused solutions aimed at revitalising and empowering communities at a local level. This document outlines a detailed comparison between the two programmes, drawing on the specific interventions that both schemes outline for regeneration and improvement.

# Comparison Matrix: LTP4T vs. PFN

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| Criteria | Long-Term Plan for Towns (LTP4T) | Plans for Neighbourhoods (PFN) |
| Scope | Focused on regenerating and revitalising towns, improving town centres, and infrastructure. (Source: LTP4T, Section 1.2) | Focused on regenerating and revitalising local neighbourhoods, empowering communities to lead. (Source: PFN, Fund Summary) |
| Objective | Economic growth, improved infrastructure, and town-wide regeneration. (Source: LTP4T, Section 1.2) | Empowerment of local communities, addressing immediate needs and local issues such as housing and safety. (Source: PFN, Foreword from Deputy Prime Minister) |
| Key Areas of Focus | High street regeneration, business growth, transport, safety, culture, heritage, and public realm improvements. (Source: LTP4T, Section 3.5) | Community safety, housing improvements, local green spaces, cultural initiatives, and community wellbeing. (Source: PFN, Fund Summary) |
| Funding Sources | Up to £20 million per town for a 10-year period, with flexibility in allocation to large-scale interventions. (Source: LTP4T, Section 4.3) | Up to £20 million for each neighbourhood over 10 years, with more flexibility for smaller-scale, localised interventions. (Source: PFN, Fund Summary) |
| Timeline | 10-year programme with a 3-year investment focus, delivering long-term strategic projects. (Source: LTP4T, Section 3.3) | 10-year programme, but focused on immediate interventions within the first few years. (Source: PFN, Timeline) |
| Governance | Town Boards consisting of local leaders, businesses, MPs, and local authorities responsible for governance. (Source: LTP4T, Section 2.2) | Neighbourhood Boards comprising local residents, community leaders, and stakeholders responsible for governance. (Source: PFN, Governance) |
| Community Engagement | Broad consultation to define town-wide priorities with significant input from businesses, local authorities, and stakeholders. (Source: LTP4T, Section 2.6) | Deep, localised engagement ensuring residents have a direct role in shaping local regeneration. (Source: PFN, Community Engagement) |
| Impact Measurement | Economic outcomes (GDP growth, employment rates, business expansion, and town centre revitalisation). (Source: LTP4T, Section 3.5) | Social outcomes (reduced crime, improved wellbeing, access to services, and quality of life). (Source: PFN, Fund Objectives) |
| Example Projects | High street and town centre regeneration, business hubs, transport improvements, cultural tourism, heritage site restoration. (Source: LTP4T, Section 3.5) | Community hubs, green space regeneration, local arts projects, housing repairs, crime reduction initiatives. (Source: PFN, Pre-Approved Interventions) |
| Flexibility | Flexibility to select town-wide interventions such as transport upgrades, business support, and town centre regeneration. (Source: LTP4T, Section 3.5) | High flexibility to tailor projects based on neighbourhood needs, such as local crime prevention or community health initiatives. (Source: PFN, Fund Objectives) |
| Powers & Tools | Local authority powers for business support, infrastructure upgrades, and safety. (Source: LTP4T, Section 4.3) | Greater use of community-driven powers, including Neighbourhood Development Orders, Asset of Community Value schemes, and localised planning tools. (Source: PFN, Governance) |
| Green Space & Environment | Town-wide green infrastructure projects, urban greening, public parks, and environmental improvements. (Source: LTP4T, Section 3.5) | Neighbourhood-level green spaces, community gardens, park enhancements, and urban tree planting. (Source: PFN, Pre-Approved Interventions) |
| Community Safety & Crime Prevention | Improvements in security infrastructure, hotspot policing, community safety upgrades in town centres. (Source: LTP4T, Section 3.5) | Localised crime prevention through community-led initiatives, such as safety hubs, youth engagement, and neighbourhood watch schemes. (Source: PFN, Pre-Approved Interventions) |
| Cultural & Heritage | Cultural tourism, heritage site restoration, and local arts initiatives for town centre revitalisation. (Source: LTP4T, Section 3.5) | Focus on local cultural heritage, community festivals, and arts projects that celebrate neighbourhood identities. (Source: PFN, Pre-Approved Interventions) |
| Health & Wellbeing | Town-wide community health initiatives, public health awareness campaigns, and local healthcare service access. (Source: LTP4T, Section 3.5) | Community health projects, mental health hubs, social prescribing, and local wellness initiatives. (Source: PFN, Pre-Approved Interventions)  |
| Housing & Infrastructure | Large-scale housing regeneration, energy efficiency improvements, and town centre infrastructure projects. (Source: LTP4T, Section 3.5) | Housing repairs, local energy efficiency upgrades, and community-led housing initiatives. (Source: PFN, Pre-Approved Interventions) |
| Business & Economic Support | Town-wide support for local businesses, including infrastructure improvements, retail support, and business hubs. (Source: LTP4T, Section 3.5) | Focused support for local entrepreneurs, business start-ups, and micro-businesses, including skills training and access to resources. (Source: PFN, Pre-Approved Interventions) |
| Education & Skills | Skills training linked to business growth, local job creation, and educational partnerships. (Source: LTP4T, Section 3.5) | Community-based educational programmes, youth services, and skills development to improve local employability. (Source: PFN, Pre-Approved Interventions) |
| Transport & Mobility | Town-wide transport infrastructure improvements such as road safety, bus services, and connectivity. (Source: LTP4T, Section 3.5) | Improvements in local active travel infrastructure, footpaths, cycle routes, and localised bus services. (Source: PFN, Pre-Approved Interventions) |
| Social Cohesion | Initiatives focused on town-wide social cohesion, cultural exchange, and community-building activities. (Source: LTP4T, Section 3.5) | Grassroots community cohesion, including social mixing events, mentoring, and volunteering projects. (Source: PFN, Pre-Approved Interventions) |

# Summary

The evolution from Long-Term Plans for Towns (LTP4T) to Plans for Neighbourhoods (PFN) marks a shift from broad, town-wide interventions to a more targeted, community-centric approach. Both programmes maintain similar overarching goals of regeneration and social improvement, but the focus of PFN is on empowering local communities to address their specific needs, whereas LTP4T was centred on larger, town-wide developments.

Key differences include:

- Scope: LTP4T focused on town-wide interventions, such as high street regeneration and large-scale infrastructure projects. PFN prioritises interventions at the neighbourhood level, ensuring that the specific needs of local communities drive the regeneration efforts.

- Flexibility: PFN offers more flexibility for localised, creative interventions based on community feedback. This flexibility allows for targeted actions on issues like housing, crime, and community health.

- Community Engagement: Both programmes emphasise community involvement, but PFN places a stronger emphasis on grassroots participation, allowing residents to take control of the regeneration process in their neighbourhoods.

- Powers & Tools: LTP4T focused on larger-scale powers available to local authorities and businesses for town-wide interventions. PFN enhances the toolkit for local communities, allowing for neighbourhood-specific planning tools like Neighbourhood Development Orders and the Asset of Community Value scheme.

PFN builds on the foundation laid by LTP4T, offering a more flexible and community-driven approach to regeneration. This evolution ensures that local neighbourhoods can adapt the programme to their unique needs, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in the regeneration process.