

# ATLAS

## Advisory Team for Large Applications

The Advisory Team for Large Applications (ATLAS) has been set up by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) as a pilot project to provide a new advisory service to local authorities in London and the wider south east. ATLAS is run by English Partnerships. Drawing on its considerable experience, ATLAS focuses on the pressures of increased development activity flowing from the *Sustainable Communities Plan*.



ATLAS is part of the Planning Advisory Service (PAS). The key objectives for ATLAS are:

- help unblock the issues holding up major applications;
- increase the knowledge and expertise within local authorities and disseminate best practice; and
- act as a partner to local authorities and independent reviewer of major applications and issues.

ATLAS will be responsive, flexible and fluid in the way it operates. By offering a range of specialist technical services as well as an independent oversight of proposals, ATLAS will provide a supportive role to local planning authorities that require help with specific proposals. The scope of involvement will be varied from site briefing through to live planning applications. Where appropriate, ATLAS will help to unlock historic issues with landowners, applicants and others by taking a fresh overview. The team will only engage where requested by the local authority on a case by case basis and will exclude sites with a direct English Partnerships interest. Sites will be large and generally involve at least 500 housing units.

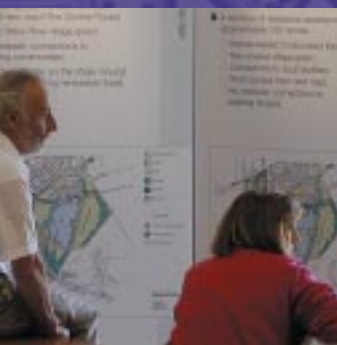


Advisory Team for  
**ATLAS**  
Large Applications  
A service provided by English Partnerships

# The ATLAS Offer

ATLAS will offer local authorities advice on a broad range of issues, including:

- development planning and the implications of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act;
- brokerage, co-ordination and negotiation of major development proposals;
- planning frameworks and development plans;
- urban design and density issues;
- Modern Methods of Construction and innovation;
- building design and sustainable standards of design;
- affordable housing negotiation and design;
- flooding (including sustainable urban drainage), waste and energy;
- environmental impact assessment, and
- social, economic and health assessment.



Offering dedicated staff with extensive planning and development experience, the ATLAS team will draw on the resources of English Partnerships' National Consultancy Unit on specialist issues. Consisting of professionals from varying disciplines, the Unit can provide expertise on all issues relating to major development. The Unit includes urban designers, policy planners, transport planners, civil engineers, community consultation experts and project managers.

Once engaged, ATLAS will be committed to helping local authorities through the major application process. With support from Government Offices and the ODP, ATLAS will also assist in unblocking strategic problems where appropriate. This may be through research into specific issues, clarification of policy and/or assistance in engaging other national and regional agencies and advisory bodies.

ATLAS' objectives lie at the heart of English Partnerships' remit and are core elements of the Skills and Sustainable Communities agendas. As part of PAS, ATLAS will also serve as a resource in identifying and disseminating good practice to all local authorities and the development industry.

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**English Partnerships**  
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