

Research Strategy

2022-2024

Our vision

Our research will celebrate and advance the Institute's role as a Learned Society. We will undertake and disseminate noteworthy and unbiased research to enhance knowledge, skills, policy and decision-making practices within the planning profession and beyond.

The RTPI is committed to promoting planning excellence, and undertaking planning research is one of the ten foundations of the [RTPI Corporate Strategy](#): *We will build upon our widely respected research and policy work to broaden the impact of our influence, focusing on the key issues of interest to our members and our stakeholders, in particular government and the general public. We will work with other partners to maximise our impact where it is appropriate to do so, whilst protecting our professional intellectual property.*

We will therefore generate, commission and support research content which:

- Promotes planners and planning as a means of addressing social and environmental challenges.
- Continues to advocate the value of planning within the UK, Ireland and globally.
- Supports learning and improvement in planning practice and skills.

In doing the above, we will abide by our research ethics and principles established in 2018.

What have we done

The RTPI has delivered its 2019-2021 Research Programme, including over forty research papers, ten practice advice notes and four peer-reviewed journal articles. The last two years have demonstrated the need to facilitate quick responses to unexpected (yet crucial) research needs, as demonstrated by the Covid-19 pandemic. We have also adopted a [CHANGE action plan](#) and [International Strategy](#) which provide additional important contexts for our work. Between January and July 2021, the RTPI conducted a comprehensive consultation exercise with members and stakeholders on our future research priorities. This Strategy seeks to capture the key priorities raised by members during this consultation.



What will we do

Our vision for 2022-2024 reinforces the RTPI’s position as a world leading professional planning body. To this end, the following objectives have been devised to ensure all research that the RTPI publishes, contributes to and promotes during the lifespan of this Strategy will further the attainment of our vision as well as that of the Corporate Strategy.

Our research objectives

Objectives	Our research will:	
	Be relevant to practitioners and policymakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Addressing current issues faced by practitioners, policymakers and wider society. ● Relating to current policy objectives of the RTPI having regard to UK and international policy, including advancement of the SDGs.
	Positively impact planning policy and decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advancing knowledge across sectors: to ensure that policymakers and practitioners have the information and expertise required to deliver positive planning outcomes. ● Impacting positively on public health and wellbeing: by providing evidence for policy development campaigns on critical planning matters.
	Promote the value of planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advocating the importance of planning and planners: as essential to addressing 21st century challenges. ● Advocating for sufficient planning resources: to provide the profession with the necessary support, skills, tools and mechanisms to address new and recurring challenges.
	Improve planning practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhancing skills within the profession and beyond: providing policymakers and practitioners with the most up to date knowledge and learning tools to enable the delivery of healthy, socially inclusive, and economically and environmentally sustainable places.
	Advance Equality Diversity and Inclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● From inception of the research: to ensure that EDI is integrated at every stage of the process. ● In the planning profession and wider society: to ensure that practitioners and policymakers are equipped with the knowledge and tools to action EDI objectives and deliver inclusive outcomes.



How will we do this

Our objectives will be actioned using three guiding principles that will underpin all research work conducted, and which reflect the feedback voiced by members during the consultation process:

- A desire for greater **collaboration** between the RTPI and other organisations, such as universities, in the commissioning and dissemination of research.
- A desire for the RTPI to further enhance its role as planning **advocate**, promoting increased planning research funding and planning research excellence generally.
- A desire for the RTPI to bridge the gap between planning policy, research and practice, ensuring the **dissemination** of relevant planning research, whether it be from the RTPI, universities or elsewhere, to a wide audience across all sectors within the planning profession and beyond.

Our research principles and actions

