

# Resourcing the Planning Service: Key Findings Summary 2022

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In 2021 local authorities only spent 0.49% of their total net revenue budgets on planning services <sup>[1]</sup>



Gross expenditure to planning authorities has diminished in real terms by 38% since 2010 <sup>[2]</sup>



There have been 25% staffing cuts in planning departments since 2010 <sup>[3]</sup>



Planning application fees only cover 66% of their processing costs <sup>[4]</sup>



There are 49 new and unfunded duties in the Planning (Scotland) Act, which could cost between £12.1m and £59.1m over 10 years <sup>[5]</sup>



Only around 8% of staff in planning authorities are under 30. An estimated demand of up-to 730 planners over the next 15 years is required <sup>[6]</sup>



Implementation of new digital planning initiatives could result in £20.4m in savings on costs of implementing the Planning Act <sup>[7]</sup>

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[1] Scottish Local Government Financial Statistics 2020/21 workbooks 00 & 07

[2] Scottish Local Government Financial Statistics 2010/11 and 2020/21, using Bank of England Inflation Calculator.

[3] Comparison between Planning Workforce Survey 2010 and Planning Performance Framework 2020/21.

[4] Heads of Planning (HOPS), Costing the Planning Service Project Input to the Workstream on Planning Fees and Planning Performance (2017)

[5] RTPI Scotland (2019) Cost of Implementing the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.

[6] Skills Development Scotland, Skills in Planning Research (2020); Improvement Service, Planning Performance Framework 2020/21.

[7] RTPI Scotland (2020) Transforming Planning, Places and Scotland - The benefits of investing in a digital planning service