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## Contents

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 3   | Convenor's Comments – Fraser Carlin   |
| 4-5 | Monitoring the Outcomes – and evaluating the impact – of planning – John Lord and Nick Wright |
| 6   | Public Enquiries – Christina Cox  |
| 7   | Immaterial Considerations   |
| 8   | In Focus – PAS Bridging the Gap – Petra Biberbach   |
| 9   | In Practice – Buildings designations appeals – Dawn McDowell                                  |
| 10  | SNH Update – Peter Hutchinson   |

## Scotland 2050

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 11    | A new planning system for Scotland – Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning |
| 12-13 | Scotland 2050 – Professor Brian Evans   |
| 14-15 | Scotland 2050 – Anne McCall   |
| 16-17 | Scotland 2050 – Stephen Tucker  |

## Updates

|    |                                  |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 18 | Partners in Planning             |
| 19 | Scottish Government Update       |
| 20 | RTPI Scotland update             |
| 21 | Update: PAS/RTPI Practice Advice |
| 22 | Policy Update                    |
| 23 | Contacts                         |

## Editorial

Welcome to autumn 2018's Scottish Planner. With the planning system in Scotland still in a state of flux as the Planning Bill undergoes detailed scrutiny by the Scottish Parliament, here at RTPI Scotland we are all too aware that members throughout the country are getting on and working hard to see development delivered, precious environments protected, and Scotland's places enhanced for everyone. With review of the National Planning Framework due to start next year, the time is ripe to lift our eyes from procedure to the opportunities that planning offers to help build a better and more successful country. In this issue we are launching 'Scotland 2050' – a debate we want to see happen in the profession about the contribution that planning and planners can make to shaping Scotland by NPF4's end date. To get things going we have asked three planners – all professionals with a different perspective – to share their vision for how our nation will look in 30 years' time.

Our lead article from John Lord and Nick Wright provides vital context for this, providing a snapshot of the research they have completed for the Scottish Government looking at how we can begin to measure planning outcomes.

Finally, the RTPI is your Institute, and we want to see as many members as possible involved in projects like Scotland 2050, as well as the range of chapter and national events that happen across the country. In light of the new data protection rules the way RTPI Scotland shares news with you by email has changed. If you want to continue to hear from us by email – including about Chapter events – please make sure to log in to the 'My RTPI' section of the RTPI website, check we have the right email address for you, and tick the appropriate boxes.

— Kate Houghton, Co-Editor

## Convenor's Comments:

# A role for planners and planning in shaping Scotland 2050



Fraser Carlin  
MRTPI  
Convenor  
RTPI Scotland  
[@ConvenorRTPI](#)

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## Fraser Carlin, Convenor for 2018, introduces Scotland 2050

As the Planning Bill makes its way through Parliament, many of us may be focusing on the detailed planning processes and attempting to make sense of the amendments tabled covering everything from the purpose of planning to permitted development rights.

However, while the Bill is important, we need to remember that, in itself, it won't be the game-changer that transforms how the Planning system works.

In this respect, while it may have been useful for the Bill to have been framed around a more positive and stronger vision of what we want the planning system to do, it is perhaps inevitable that the debate about legislation focused more on the nuts and bolts of the system rather than the outcomes that planning aims to achieve.

However, this doesn't mean we should stay silent on this. Quite the opposite!

I believe that the preparation of the next National Planning Framework provides us with an opportunity to have this debate and to engage politicians, communities and other key players so as to lift their sights onto the bigger issues.

The next NPF should be and will be different from the current version. RTPI Scotland wants to support the Scottish Government to ensure that the new NPF4 is contextualised within the issues and challenges faced by Planners today, and by a collaborative approach to production, sets out a vision and clarity on what Scotland could achieve by 2050.

That is why I am delighted that RTPI Scotland is taking forward the Scotland 2050 initiative.

Scotland 2050 aims to put in place an engagement process that facilitates a discussion and debate as to what type of country we want Scotland to be in 2050 and what is required to get there. This will not just involve Planners, but looks to others who need or work with Planners and the Planning system. We want to make the process inclusive, transparent and disruptive in generating new ideas and thinking.

This has started with the RTPI Scotland Annual Conference which was built around 'disruptive and constructive' presentations on key issues where local and international speakers tackled key issues by providing a

deliberately challenging take on where they think Scotland should be going, and how planning, planners and the National Planning Framework can help to take us in that direction.

And this edition of the Scottish Planner plays its part too, with a number of thinkpieces each taking a different perspective on 'Scotland 2050'. Professor Brian Evans, School of Urbanism at Glasgow School of Art, Anne McCall, Director of RSPB Scotland and Stephen Tucker, Director of Barton Willmore all offer their vision.

Key to the success of this will be engaging with members of the Institute across the country so my challenge to you is to take part in the debate, to open your mind to the possibilities that face us in Scotland 2050, and, share your thoughts and ideas as part of this. ■

# Article:

## Monitoring the outcomes – and evaluating the impact – of planning



John Lord  
Director  
yellow book ltd

Research commissioned by the Scottish Government explores the case for a new approach to performance management for the planning system. Instead of the current focus on processing speed the emphasis would shift to examining the contribution of planning to building a better Scotland. Here the report's authors, **John Lord** of yellow book ltd. and **Nick Wright** of Nick Wright Planning, consider the implications of such a shift and the potential benefits in terms of learning, transparency and accountability – and delivering the National Outcomes.

Empowering Planning to Deliver Great Places, the 2016 report of the independent review of the Scottish planning system, acknowledges that “speed of decision making is an important part of performance monitoring”, but it also notes the “broad consensus on the need to refocus [development] plans on delivering outcomes rather than process”. This theme was picked up in the Scottish Government’s response to the review, notably the January 2017 consultation paper, Places, People and Planning, which proposed changes to the existing Planning Performance Framework (which focuses primarily on process) but also discussed the case for “measuring performance on the basis of quality of places”. The consultation revealed a consensus among policymakers, planners and third sector organisations that a new approach was required. The Policy Memorandum accompanying the Planning (Scotland) Bill noted the “strong support for a focus on monitoring quality of decisions and outcomes, as well as time-based performance standards”.

This was the context for the 2018 research study, commissioned by the Scottish Government, on Monitoring the Outcomes of Planning. The aim of the research, which was carried out by yellow book ltd and

Nick Wright Planning, was “to identify how place-based outcomes from planning could be monitored”. This was an ambitious goal in itself, but the objectives of the study were not restricted to “place-based outcomes”. We were also encouraged to consider the long-term impacts of planning, both direct (better places) and indirect (contribution to other National Outcomes).

Our research revealed a lack of rigour, precision and consistency in the policy discourse, and an inadequate understanding of the basic principles of performance management. In particular, there was a persistent failure to distinguish between the outputs, outcomes and impacts of planning. The report seeks to clear up this confusion by defining five key terms:

- **inputs** are the human, financial and other resources used by planning authorities and other actors in the planning process
- **activities** describe the work that actors in the planning system do, including the preparation of development plans and the development management process
- **outputs** are the immediate, short-term results of planning activities, especially approvals for specified quantities and types of development
- **outcomes** are the tangible, usually

medium-term results of planning activities – the volume and type of development started and completed

- **impacts** describe the medium to long-term effects of the planning system, which may be either:
  - direct impacts on place quality, or
  - indirect impacts on wider economic, social and environmental goals.

Monitoring – the collection of data before, during and after implementation – applies to inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes, all of which can be reliably quantified. Monitoring data form part of the evidence base for the evaluation of planning impacts. Evaluation is a qualitative process, which uses evidence from a variety of sources and expert judgement to undertake a systematic assessment of all aspects of an intervention’s design, delivery and results.

The report uses these elements to frame the draft performance management framework for the Scottish planning system shown in the diagram.

The existing Planning Performance Framework (PPF), developed by Heads of Planning Scotland (HOPS) and first launched in 2011, monitors activities (applications processed by planning authorities) and

outputs (applications determined and the speed of processing). It is concerned primarily with the development management process and its short-term outputs; only two measures (housing completions and employment land take-up) relate to development outcomes. The research study concludes that the PPF “is essentially inward-looking and narrowly focused...It is of more value to...planners, policymakers [and] developers than to citizens and communities.”

The speed and results of planning decisions are useful measures of administrative efficiency but they require careful interpretation. Is speed always a virtue, especially if there is significant opposition to a proposal? Good planning means rejecting developments that are in the wrong place or fall short on quality grounds, but the PPF – like much of the policy discourse - is predicated on the implicit assumption that approvals are good and refusals are bad. We know from previous research on community engagement in planning that this is a source of deep frustration to community groups who believe that the system is already loaded in favour of developers, and that it does not do enough to deliver better place quality.

So there is much to be said for shifting the focus from monitoring the planning process – though this is still important – to the on-the-ground outcomes and impacts of planning. It would have the merit of demonstrating the benefits (and shortcomings) of the planning system in terms that make sense to ordinary citizens, it would promote learning, and it would contribute to greater transparency and accountability. But we should not underestimate the challenges that adopting the new approach would present.

A review of recent research leaves little room for doubt that applying an outcomes-based performance management model to planning is inherently difficult, especially if we are looking beyond direct spatial impacts to consider the wider effects on “health, wellbeing, sense of identity and prosperity”.

The report does not contain detailed recommendations, but it offers some guidelines for a more holistic performance framework. It argues for a pragmatic, incremental approach, and warns against allowing “the perfect to be the enemy of the good”. Instead, policymakers should adopt a staged approach:

- first, the existing monitoring regime should be expanded to include a wider range of quantifiable planning outcomes
- next, an initial tranche of evaluation studies should be commissioned, focusing on direct (placemaking) impacts
- finally, more wide-ranging evaluations should be undertaken to assess the impact of planning on the wider policy agenda and its contribution to National Outcomes.

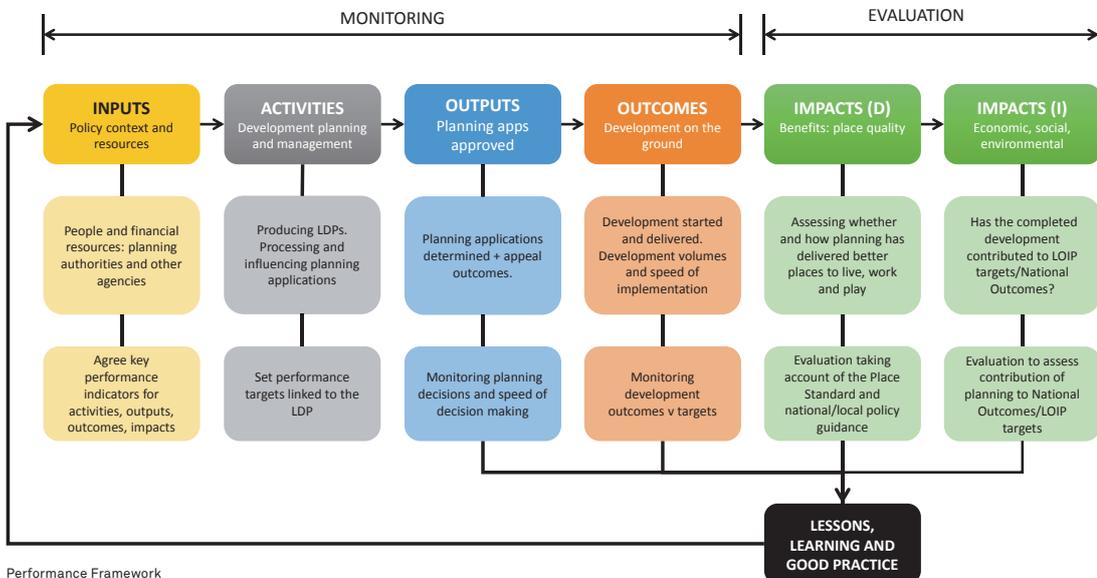
The report suggests that the expanded monitoring regime should be a comprehensive system, covering all applications except for minor works, and backed up by a national planning database which would enable more accurate and sophisticated reporting. Detailed guidance would need to be prepared for impact evaluation, both direct and indirect, and there was strong support for using the Place Standard to inform before-and-after analysis. The report also included recommendations for publishing and disseminating the lessons learned. Politicians, professionals and citizens will thus be able to test whether the core purpose

of planning – to create “better places” in Scotland – is being achieved, and to better understand what works as well as what can go wrong.

The study revealed a high level of interest in performance management for planning, as well as a keen awareness of the practical difficulties of developing and implementing an outcomes-based system. We benefited from the expert advice and insights of RTPI Scotland, HOPS, the Improvement Service, the Key Agencies Group and others. The broad principles set out here commanded strong support, but our consultations also revealed some scepticism about the Government’s commitment to such a far-reaching culture change, as well as concerns about the resource implications for already overstretched planning authorities of designing and implementing the new regime.

The issues raised by the study go to the heart of the purpose of planning in a modern, progressive society. The priority now is to develop the principles set out in the report into a detailed, costed business model, and to produce a practicable and realistic implementation plan, including the role of the proposed national planning performance coordinator. That work should start now.

*John Lord is the director of yellow book consultants. He is a member of the Academy of Urbanism, an associate of Glasgow Urban Lab, and a member of the Historic England Urban Panel. Nick Wright is the founder and director of Nick Wright Planning and a former Convenor of RTPI Scotland. ■*



**Nick Wright MRTPI**  
Director  
Nick Wright Planning

Performance Framework

## Q&A

# Public Enquiries



**Chris Cox MRTPI**  
Planning Manager  
Stirling

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## Chris Cox, Planning Manager at Stirling Council, answers our questions.

### 1 Who has been the biggest inspiration or influence on your career and why?

Undoubtedly each manager that I have worked for has inspired and influenced me in different ways, with one in particular having an enduring influence.

The work that we do as Planners needs to always evolve in our fast changing world. The planners that have most impressed me have been those that have adapted to, or who have led improvement in our ways of working. In that regard, Jim Mackinnon in leading the planning reforms of 2009 has been a notable inspiration. Whilst the system that we now operate is by no means perfect, he recognised that we needed a change in culture and skills and this underpinned the reforms that came forward. As a result our work is now more widely recognised as relevant to the achievement of important outcomes.

Recently I have been inspired by the skills and abilities of young planners in my team which leads me to be optimistic about the future of our profession.

### 2 What do you feel is the biggest issue facing planners at the moment?

There is growing public expectation that planning deals with concerns beyond those we are enabled to effect. There is also growing frustration about not being able to influence planning decisions to go further in meeting individual requests. Although third party rights of appeal, or 'equal right of appeal', is the solution that some think is needed, I don't think that this would deal with these frustrations as it wouldn't fix the underlying problem. But we do need a system that enables us to deal with these frustrations. Working out how better we go about doing this is our biggest issue.

### 3 Why is planning important?

I remember a past Director saying to me that the way I explained the role of planning was to imply that planning is relevant to everything that we do as a Council. I replied 'well, yes, it just about is'. Planning is important because it helps achieve integrated outcomes: from sustainability to economic development to health improvement on the way to achieving quality places that improve quality of life.

### 4 Where do you think best exemplifies planning's role in creating great places for people?

Forthside in Stirling has been comprehensively redeveloped through a masterplan, multi-partner approach. Forthside was substantially planned and progressed by Planners at Stirling Council before I started here, so I have no blushes in impartially plugging it! Enhancing vacant heritage buildings, with sustainability at the heart, linking the area to the City Centre and public transport hubs, providing quality housing, civic space and new business space means we now have a developing place that is vibrant, well connected and rich in heritage.

### 5 If the Planning Bill could deliver one thing for your team in Stirling, what would it be?

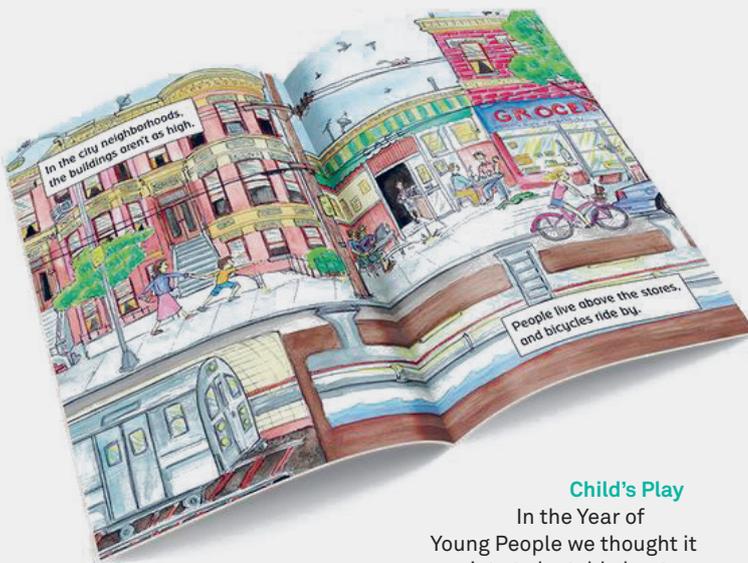
Would a system that provides the financial means to meet infrastructure gaps to deliver strategic development be too fanciful? More realistically I would ask for a statutory link between community and spatial planning and the practical means to deliver aligned plans and actions that are community owned and understood. ■

# Immaterial Considerations

An irreverent look at the world of planning...

## Virtual Cities, Virtually no Planning

We noticed an interesting piece on the BBC Trending website about investors spending real money to buy land in a new city called Decentraland. The weird thing about it is that the city only exists in virtual reality and appears to have very lax planning as buyers can build whatever they want on their plots. Apparently many hope to make a profit trading goods and services in the virtual world's own crypto currency. Have a look at the video which asks if Decentraland be an online utopia or a cyber slum at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/stories-45275461/the-virtual-land-selling-for-millions>. So, in the spirit of this, should the Planning Bill be looking to establishing Local Place Plans rather than Local Place Plans?



## Child's Play

In the Year of Young People we thought it was appropriate to be told about a book explaining planning to children called "Where Things are From Near to Far" Published by Planetizen this book is – according to the publisher – “an easy introduction to the world of urban planning, and illustrates that every building has its place.” It is based on the urban-to-rural transect, which divides cities into six different zones ranging from rural countryside to dense skyscrapers and shows how planners help shape our cities and towns. The book was written by Tim Halbur and Editor Chris Steins and you can find out more at <https://store.planetizen.com/products/where-things-are-from-near-to-far>

## Legoland

We were delighted to discover the twitter account “Lego Transport & Planning”, known as @PlasticPlanners which, in their words is “using the world’s favourite toy to demonstrate ideas relating to transport and planning, especially road safety. Sometimes in satire.” Some recent examples of their work include lego being used to promote the need to build cities for people of all ages and the need to promote walking and cycling. A building block for the future perhaps....



## Hats off to Planning!

Readers may have noticed a recent article in the Guardian where designer Wayne Hemmingway talked about the need to support planners and planning saying “We’ve got to make planning noble again; pay planners well; give them power.” Hooray for Wayne! It was also interesting to see the reactions to this with our favourite coming in the shape of a tweet from RTPI Member Rob Krzyszowski [ @robzowski ] which highlighted new attire that should be worn to promote this - a Donald Trump-eques baseball cap saying “Make Planning Noble Again”. We want one!



## In Focus: Bridging the Gap – Progress Update

Petra Biberbach of PAS provides an update on the PAS Bridging the Gap project during its second year.



Petra Biberbach  
Chief Executive  
PAS

In the March 2017 edition of *Scottish Planner*, I wrote about a new project, Bridging the Gap. Now in its second year, the project has gone on to achieve a number of positive outcomes.

The aim of the Bridging the Gap project is to equip young participants with the skills to survey, reflect and plan for their future, and learn about how to get involved in decision making.

During the four-year project, students learn about planning and engage with elected members and council officers from the Scottish Borders Council, members of Energise Galashiels Development Trust and local Community Councils to provide them with first-hand experience of learning to weigh up competing demands, decision-making structures and making their views heard. It's also an intergenerational exchange of digital skills and local history between younger and older groups.

Bridging the Gap is structured in two phases, first introducing students to concepts of placemaking and decision-making, then involving students in local projects and live issues relating to place, to put their skills and knowledge into action in meaningful contexts.

So far these have included:

**Place Standard digital app** - Students from S2 took part in a series of workshops working with an app developer to help design and test a digital app version of the Place Standard. The aim was to make the Place Standard a more accessible and inclusive tool by enabling people to use it on their smartphones.

**Town centre masterplan** - Relatively early in the project, participants had an opportunity to take part in the process to develop a new masterplan for the town centre. Students took part in workshops to share their views on the future of the town centre, as well as explore and discuss different views put forward by others in the community.

**Planning Bill** - The Local Government and Communities Committee held an evidence session in the Scottish Parliament with 20 Bridging the Gap students from Galashiels Academy. MSPs sought their views on the planning system and Local Place Plans and encouraged students to share their views on the role of young people in the planning system.

**School estates project** - In early 2018, an opportunity arose for Bridging the Gap participants to influence the proposed development of a new school and community campus in the Scottish Borders, in competition with other towns. Exploring issues at the regional, local and school levels, students shared their views to inform Galashiels' bid for the new campus.

**European youth summit** - Galashiels Academy will host a week-long European youth summit in September 2018, with young participants attending from Latvia, Poland, Norway and Germany. The youth summit is titled My Town – Past, Present and Future and will enable students to explore placemaking with their peers from other countries, including issues of governance and decision-making, resulting in participants returning to their home towns with new ideas for action and youth participation.

As Bridging the Gap continues to create opportunities for young people in Galashiels, it has already attracted funding to roll the project out in four additional local authority areas which will be announced in the autumn. ■

# In Practice:

## Heritage Designation Appeals



**Dawn McDowell**  
Deputy Head of  
Designations  
Historic Environment  
Scotland

**Dawn McDowell** of Historic Environment Scotland explores how recently introduced building designations appeals are working in practice.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) compiles and maintains designation records to help to ensure that Scotland's heritage is recognised for future generations. In 2015, there was a change in the law which for the first time allowed a legal right of appeal against **designation decisions** for listed buildings and scheduled monuments. Appeals are made to the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) of the Scottish Government. This gives owners, occupiers and tenants the opportunity to appeal if they disagree with our listing or scheduling decisions.

### How the appeal process works

The right of appeal against listing or scheduling means that our decisions are open, transparent and can be tested. An owner has to appeal within three months of our notification that there has been a new designation or a change to an existing designation. There's no statutory right of appeal for the removal of a designation, a decision not to designate and any changes made solely to categories of listing.

### Designations appeals so far

Since 2015, there have been one scheduling appeal and six listing appeals lodged with DPEA. At the time of writing, only two appeals cases were completed both of which upheld our designation decisions. The first was for the enlargement of the scheduled area at Catherine Lodge Roman settlement in East Lothian and the other was for the new listing of the Art Deco offices for the Lothian Regional Transport bus company in Longstone, Edinburgh. Ongoing cases include the appeal against listing historic gas holders in Glasgow and Dunfermline and two other listed buildings in Perthshire and Aberdeenshire.

The owner of a field at **Catherine Lodge** objected to it being included in the scheduled area because they believed that there was not enough evidence to prove that the field contained nationally important archaeology.

They also felt that the interest of the site could be recognised by another method other than scheduling. The Reporter concluded that in this case 'the whole of the monument as scheduled is of national importance and that scheduling is necessary to protect the remains.'

The 1948 **Lothian Regional Transport office building** was listed at category C in July 2017. The owner considered that the building was not a notable example of its transport building type, that it was not representative of the Art Deco style and that it was too altered. The Reporter found that the building was of special interest because of 'the rarity and the architectural interest despite the altered nature of the fabric and the relatively young age of the building'.

### Some observations

The process undertaken by HES in assessing sites or buildings for designation has not yet been questioned in the appeals process. Having all decisions published on our **Portal** with reports of handling and assessments has helped to clarify and open up our decision-making process. The reports specifically address the designations criteria, helping to inform how each heritage asset is designated.

In each of the completed cases, the Reporter's observations have relied on our published reports and assessments and have not taken into account the potential impact designation has on development, although these issues have been raised by appellants.

Finally, with the ongoing cases in mind, the designations appeal system is becoming a first choice for large companies and landowners who have seen it as an option to explore before (in some cases) proceeding to the consenting process for development, notwithstanding our practice of not designating in the face of development proposals. It remains to be seen if there will be much uptake by householders, who have so far not opted to test our decisions. ■



Field at Catherine Lodge. Crown Copyright HES Polygon Data HES



Lothian Regional Transport Office, Edinburgh.  
Copyright Historic Environment Scotland

You can read the Reporter's decisions for designations appeals on the [DPEA website](#). You can find out more about the appeal process on our [website](#).



## Article: Planning for great places



**Peter Hutchinson**  
'Supporting Good  
Development' Activity  
Manager  
Scottish Natural  
Heritage

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### Peter Hutchinson, SNH's Supporting Good Development Activity Manager, explains our new approach to engaging in the Planning System.

When it comes to planning, it's good to talk – and the earlier the better. Sharing ideas, considering the benefits of nature, being visionary about 'place' and helping to find solutions, is the thinking behind our new approach to engaging in the planning system.

After listening to our customers, considering the direction of regulatory and planning reforms, and reflecting on the need to align our work with the whole of the government's programme, we have recently launched *Planning for Great Places* – a new service statement to strengthen the connection between people, development and nature.

Our aim is to be more active in helping to make Scotland the best place to live, work, visit and do business. We want to focus our efforts on:

- early and upstream engagement in the planning system
- stronger working with business interests
- clearer advice that is alert to other interests

This is fine in theory, but what will it mean in practice? Our new approach has four key priorities:

**First, sharing knowledge about Scotland's nature** – we want to help others see and understand the benefits nature gives us all and how our natural assets can be part of developments. Our *Sharing Good Practice* programme has proved to be a good start,

but we want to do more. We want to develop good practice with the people who make our great places: for example, working with the Civil Engineering Contractors Association and supporting their recently established environmental forum.

**Second, investing in nature** – we want to work with business interests, such as City Deals and housing sector partnerships, to help them invest in nature. We want to help them maximise the competitive advantage from our nature. As recently illustrated by the tourism book, *The Rough Guide*, promoting Scotland as the most beautiful country in the world, our nature is pretty special! It supports a range of social and economic benefits – from jobs to climate change to people's wellbeing.

**Third, supporting plan and place making** – we want to continue to work with planners, other key agencies, communities, developers and others to support a plan-led approach to delivering development. We want to work together to plan how best to use nature. A good example of the sort of approach we want is the Midlothian Green Network map, which carefully planned active travel routes and other green networks.

**And fourth, providing advice that enables good development.** We want to help achieve the right development in the right place. And for this, we want to help make any development as good as it possibly can. We want to talk to development interests as early as possible, whether individually or through

sector or industry groups.

Collectively, and by working in an inclusive and engaging way, we hope that these priorities will help planning for great places – connecting people and nature and supporting good development.

If you would like to keep in touch with our work to help Planning for Great Places, please sign up for updates via our twice-yearly Planning e-bulletin sign-up form. It is your way of keeping up to date with guidance, consultations, research and good practice related to development and the natural heritage.

You can also sign up to our SNH newsletter via the SNH e-newsletter webpage to keep up to date with our work more generally on nature and landscapes. ■

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Read *Planning for Great Places* at [nature.scot/planning-service-statement](https://www.nature.scot/planning-service-statement)

Read *Sharing Good Practice* at [nature.scot/enjoying-outdoors/events](https://www.nature.scot/enjoying-outdoors/events)

Sign up for our planning e-bulletin at: [nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-e-bulletin](https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-e-bulletin)

Sign up for the SNH newsletter at: [nature.scot/information-library-data-and-research/e-newsletters-and-blogs/snh-e-newsletter](https://www.nature.scot/information-library-data-and-research/e-newsletters-and-blogs/snh-e-newsletter)

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## Article:

# A new planning system for Scotland – are you ready to deliver?



**Kevin Stewart MSP**  
Minister for Local  
Government, Housing  
and Planning

**Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, looks ahead to implementing new way of working.**

This is a crucial time for planning in Scotland. We have the opportunity to make our planning system work better for all of us – for our communities, for our economy and for the quality of our places. The Planning (Scotland) Bill is an important element in the opportunity before us. It will provide the framework within which our planning service operates right across Scotland.

As we move through Stage 2 of the Planning Bill it's easy to get caught up in the detail of the many amendments being proposed by a wide range of organisations. I know all of them are sincere in wanting to improve the system and protect or promote their particular interests. But I want to make sure we don't lose sight of the reasons we introduced this Bill and the big opportunities it could bring.

In 2016, an independent review concluded that our planning system can be improved. The independent panel, representing users of the system, recommended strengthening and simplifying procedures, involving communities more effectively and a stronger focus on delivering good quality development. The Planning Bill is based on those recommendations.

The review particularly supported our planned system, with the panel recommending that it becomes stronger, and more flexible. However, our planning system is also, and should in my view remain, discretionary. More inspirational, forward-looking spatial plans, supported by the sound professional judgement of planners and democratic decision-making, will mean the planning system can actively support inclusive growth and deliver great places.

A more rigid approach which dictates whether specific types of development may or may not be allowed, regardless of individual circumstances, is unlikely to achieve this. Planning cannot be reduced to a formula or pre-defined set of rules.

In responding to amendments on the Planning Bill my aim will be to ensure we deliver on the independent panel's recommendations. We must make sure we come out of the Bill process with an effective, streamlined planning system that will actively support inclusive economic growth and deliver quality places. That remains my focus.

Our Programme for Government, published in early September, recognises that planning has a vital role to play in shaping Scotland, now and in the future. The wider world has woken up to the fact that our places have a critical role to play in giving all our people the best chance in life – an understanding upon which the planning system is founded and which has long shaped what planners do. I therefore find it perplexing that planners can so often be undervalued when they have so much to contribute. I recognise that much has been achieved in the past, but we need to anticipate and respond to future challenges and opportunities, rather than trying to recreate the past. Scotland needs a planning profession which is forward looking, confident and unafraid to show strong leadership in dealing with future challenges.

In November we will launch our Digital Strategy for Planning. It will set a bold and ambitious path for Scotland's planning system, redefining the role of digital technologies, to positively change the planning experience for professionals,

individual citizens (including children and young people) and communities.

Following the Bill, we will start work on the next National Planning Framework (NPF4). A new spatial strategy that looks forward to 2050, this will be an excellent opportunity to develop new, more collaborative, ways of working.

Our aim is for NPF4 to stimulate new approaches to strategic planning. We are very open to working with planning authorities throughout Scotland to explore how regional spatial strategies can come together to inform the development of a national spatial plan. We will look to support this with a much stronger delivery programme that properly aligns with wider Scottish Government programmes and projects. The long term nature of the NPF means that we will need to look ahead to consider how and where people will live and work in the future, and what that means for Scotland's development, infrastructure and places.

By demonstrating the principles that have shaped planning reform so far, NPF4 will be an unprecedented opportunity for your profession to work together, and with others, to really show what planning can do for Scotland's people and places. I would encourage you all to get involved. ■

## Article:

# SCOTLAND: Reconciling *Zeitgeist* to *Genius loci*

**Prof Brian M Evans** Professor of Urbanism and Landscape at the Glasgow School of Art and Director of the Glasgow Urban Laboratory



**Prof Brian M Evans**  
MRTPI  
Professor of Urbanism and Landscape at the Glasgow School of Art and Director of the Glasgow Urban Laboratory

At the turn of the 21st century, Frank Arneil Walker wrote that designing for place demands an ability to reconcile the *genius loci* (the spirit of place) with the *zeitgeist* (the spirit of the times) – a simple, elegant concept to grasp, if a deal harder to describe, teach and practice.<sup>1</sup>

There is a continuous and passionate discussion about the *genius loci* in Scotland but, significantly, there is also an established consensus that the spirit of place is somehow environmental, cultural and spiritual and expressed in cultural inheritance, the built heritage and the natural environment. The *zeitgeist*, however is an altogether more complex challenge in the febrile environment that presently exists where Brexit runs the risk of creating a stultifying stasis throughout the UK.

We must not let this come about, for beyond Brexit and our own ‘Constitutional Question’, lurk a basket of international forces that we are all aware of and that may combine to be toxic or benign to society and community.

**Global trends that drive the *Zeitgeist*:** Recent research undertaken by the Glasgow Urban Laboratory (GUL)<sup>2</sup> for the United Nations identified six trends that affect all the countries in the area of the UNECE (the world from Vancouver to Vladivostok): Ageing, Low Fertility, Migration, Climate Change (in itself a polyvalent challenge), Automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI).<sup>3</sup>

This cocktail of trends are the backbeat to our *zeitgeist*. They are international forces of globalisation and, it seems, we are powerless to stop them. Furthermore they interact and this interaction can, without intervention, become toxic for communities. Fortunately there are also opportunities and, with enlightened leadership and pragmatic management, the combined effects can be made more benign if not beneficial. This however requires vision, clarity, skill, transparency and a degree of political courage

to face down the hypocrisy and dissimulation pedaled by many commentators. (Figure 1: The cocktail of international trends).<sup>4</sup>

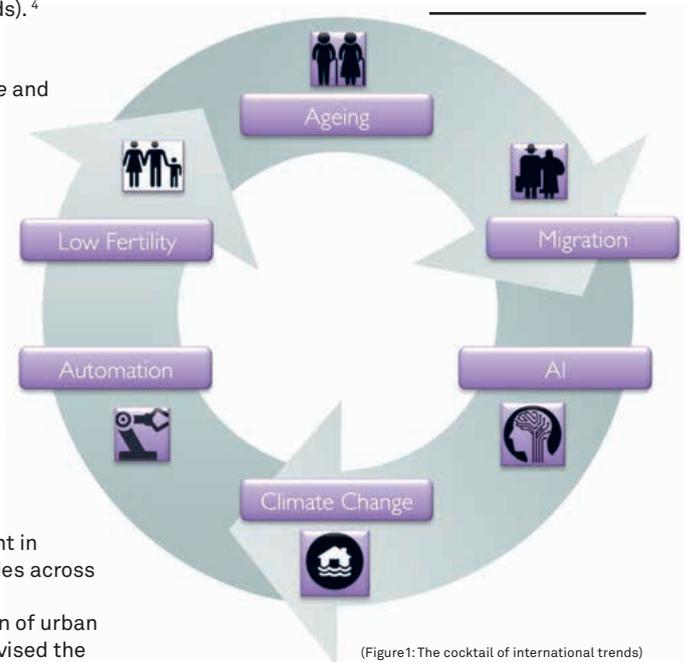
### Urban Concentration:

The combination of the *jet age* and the *net age* has compounded *urban concentration*. The predicted *death of distance* whereby the entrepreneurial class takes off to the islands to telework over fibre broadband has proved to be a myth. <sup>5</sup>Certainly there are those who desire remoteness, but they are comprehensively outnumbered by those who seek the face-to-face buzz of the city. Recent GUL research for Burness Paull has shown that the centripetal effect of urban concentration is present in Scotland’s cities as it is in cities across the global north.<sup>6</sup>

To explain the phenomenon of urban concentration, the UN has devised the concept of the *supercity* – clusters of competitive cities that combine to compete with the megacities of the global east and south. The GUL research raises the question as to whether the UK is a such a supercity (Figure 2: *Supercity* UK).<sup>7</sup>

### A change in the urban paradigm:

Over the last two decades, there has been a paradigm shift from the *industrial city* to the *knowledge city* where knowledge is the principal means of production that requires no spatial requirement beyond proximity. Scotland should consider moving from the term *post-industrial*, as applied to Glasgow and Dundee, and start thinking in terms of *proto-knowledge* cities instead. Glasgow’s new knowledge geography is remarkable, Dundee is on the road towards a similar transition, Edinburgh’s is well-advanced (it



(Figure 1: The cocktail of international trends)

had the advantageous starting point of capital city status and clusters of government and national institutions) and Aberdeen could join the club if it can overcome its own polarities (Figure 3: the industrial-knowledge paradigm shift).

### City-regions are important:

The GUL research has identified that nearly 60% of the KIBS (knowledge intensive business services) jobs in Scotland are located in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen. Add to these the three city regions and the figure rises to over 80%. Our knowledge future is urban and regional.

Management of these trends in the *zeitgeist* is necessary as is recognition of the consequences described above, but this is not sufficient. To combine the effects of these

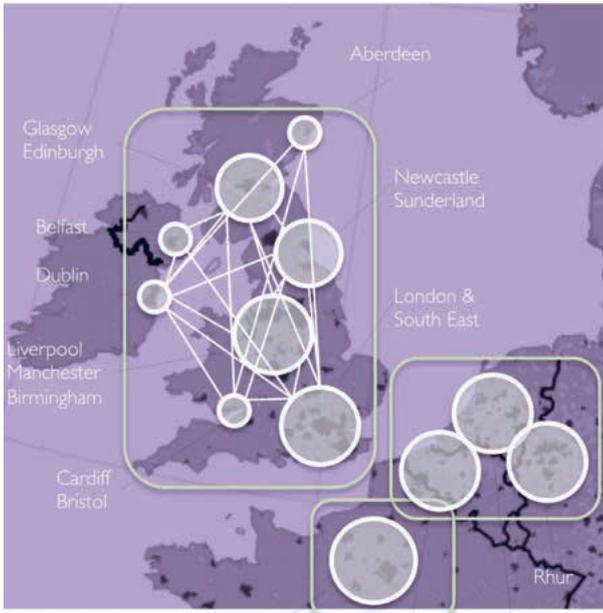


Figure 2: Superpercity UK

forces in a benign manner requires vision, leadership and a designed response. Scotland's national objectives, performance frameworks and indicators together with national outcomes are all very important. It is important to measure things. It will take consensus-building to bring these about and campaigns like 'Scotland is Now' are important in this respect. But it follows from this narrative that Scotland needs a designed response, a plan, and it is fortunate that the Scottish Government is now embarking on NPF4. The Scottish Government is to be complimented in its early adoption of the UN's 17 Strategic Development Goals (SDGs) formulated after the Paris Agreement of 2015. Recent research by UN-Habitat has highlighted how national urban policy can be dovetailed with the SDG targets and NPF4 should grasp this opportunity to put Scotland at the forefront of national planning policy. (Figure 4: Linkage of National Urban Policy to SDG Targets: Source UN-Habitat)

The recent drive to community activation and engagement is welcome – essential in fact. The roll out of charrette-based activity has been beneficial in assisting communities (and those who serve them) to understand and manage assets and to facilitate strategic change. But the gulf between community activity and national planning is too great, even for a small country like Scotland, especially one with an extensive and disparate geography. There needs to be a regional mechanism of spatial mediation in the provision and delivery of infrastructure between community and nation. In this respect, the city-region deals are an imaginative and welcome step in regional delivery, but without strategic spatial plans, they run the risk of becoming something of

a lottery where projects and infrastructure are delivered without the benefit of a spatial rationale. Regional (strategic) planning therefore remains a necessary balance in the mediation between the *zeitgeist* and the *genius loci*.

The Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government is alert to these interactions and challenges that can combine to be toxic or benign for communities and citizens. The trends of the *zeitgeist* impact on our national (UK and Scotland) and local institutions from the NHS to HMRC that were born of 20th century issues and have, by and large, 20th century aims and organisational structures. We now need to design responses that are appropriate to Scotland; we

need to think outside of Scotland; and, we need to develop an explicit consensus about what is important. Therefore we must exhort our politicians to continue their cross-party efforts to this end in the safeguarding of Scotland's *genius loci*.

We must manage these international trends carefully and design intelligent

responses or we will face attrition of what we hold dear. This then is the job of government, national and local, and it is the job of society at large and all of us as professionals.

This text is a synopsis of a talk given to the Place Standard Alliance on 7 June 2018. The analysis supporting this narrative can be accessed online at RADAR, the Glasgow School of Art's research repository.<sup>8</sup>

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- <sup>3</sup>UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Towards a city-focused people-centred and integrated approach to the new urban agenda, Evans et al, UN-Habitat, 2016. The Regional Report on the UNECE prepared for Habitat III, 2016.
- <sup>4</sup>Figures 1 – 4 are reproduced from Scotland's Urban Age: Towards a New Urban Agenda for Scotland, Evans, B. Lord, J. Robertson, M., The Glasgow Urban Laboratory and Burness Paull. Figure 5, courtesy of UN-Habitat, Nairobi, 2018
- <sup>5</sup>The Death of Distance: How the Communications Revolution Is Changing Our Lives, Cairncross, F., The Economist, 1997.
- <sup>6</sup>Scotland's Urban Age: Towards a New Urban Agenda for Scotland, Evans, B. Lord, J. Robertson, M., The Glasgow Urban Laboratory and Burness Paull, 2018
- <sup>7</sup>Evans et al UNECE & Burness Paull Op cit.
- <sup>8</sup>[https:// http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/profile/496](https://http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/profile/496)

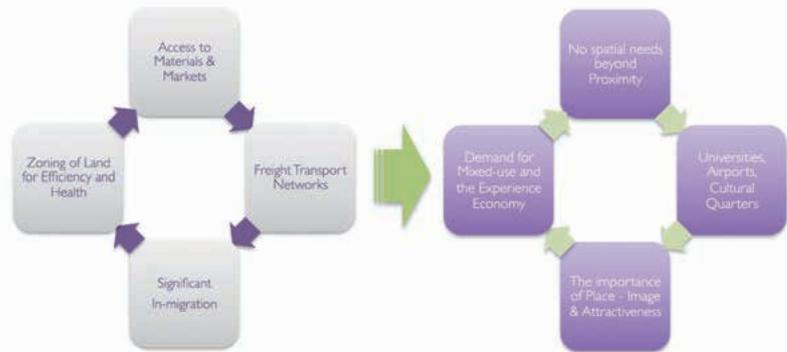


Figure 3: the industrial-knowledge paradigm shift



Figure 4: Linkage of National Urban Policy to SDG Targets: Source UN-Habitat

## Article:

# A conservationist's vision for Scotland 2050

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**Anne McCall**, Director of RSPB Scotland, challenges planners to make Scotland a better place for people and nature.

My ambition is that Scotland in 2050 will be better and richer in nature than it is now. Unfortunately, despite some successes, we currently continue to see declines in abundance and variety of wildlife, both at home in Scotland and across the world. The challenge of turning things around sometimes seems insurmountable. However, conservation, like planning, is about protecting the best of what we have and making the future better, as a conservationist and a planner, perhaps I have two reasons to remain hopeful for the future.

My vision for 2050 is of a Scotland where we have stopped further damage to habitats and species and have promoted their recovery so that Scotland's wildlife is thriving as an integral and essential part of a sustainable economy. This will require a new, more integrated approach to policy development and regulation – something planners and planning are well placed to take a leading role in achieving.

The current National Planning Framework (NPF) already goes some way to providing an integrated approach for the built environment. It has so far though always been clear that Ministers consider their Economic

Strategy as Scotland's overarching policy document. The current NPF is described by Ministers as "the spatial expression of the Government Economic Strategy" but a role reversal is required if we are to tackle the biggest challenges facing society. Policy-making dominated by economic growth at the expense of other objectives is almost universal and at the root of many current environmental problems. By 2050, we will need a new hierarchy, which puts improving the environment and society first. The next NPF will therefore need to work across policy areas to set a coordinated vision for the better, sustainable, Scotland we want in 2050 and set a route map that economic strategy can follow.

In any exercise that looks to consider what Scotland will be like in 2050, the implications of climate change are inevitably a priority. Climate change is already affecting wildlife and people in Scotland and across the planet. If we are to have any hope of keeping climate change at levels mankind and nature could adapt to, Scotland will need to have net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This will have to be central to the next NPF. But there are different possible pathways.



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**Anne McCall MRTPI**  
Director  
RSPB Scotland

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My vision is that Scotland will have decarbonised in harmony with nature. Energy will be used efficiently and developers will be steered away from sensitive wildlife habitats through a plan-led approach informed by the carrying capacity of the natural environment. Scotland will be an international leader in how renewables can thrive whilst helping reverse biodiversity declines. Ambitious decarbonisation targets across electricity, heat, transport and agriculture will ensure every sector pulls its weight. There will be continued encouragement for established renewables like wind and solar but increased investment in technology that could reduce impacts on the natural environment, such as floating wind and energy storage. The RSPB has already carried out spatial mapping to show how the UK's 2050 energy needs could be met at low risk to nature. A similar approach needs to be adopted in the NPF.

To help ensure developments, from windfarms to fish farms, happen in the right places a mitigation hierarchy should be established. This will require sensitive sites to be avoided and, where essential developments have not been able to avoid some impacts on the natural environment, as a last resort, residual impacts will be more than compensated for through investment in habitat creation measures that ensure net benefits for wildlife. The next NPF should provide a high level spatial framework to help deliver this by establishing a national ecological network for Scotland that ensures investment in more, bigger and better-joined-up areas for nature, enhancing the value of protected areas and improving their connectivity with the surrounding countryside and urban greenspaces.

The built environment does not exist in isolation. Previous NPFs have gone further than many planning documents to consider the use of land and sea beyond the built environment but the next NPF will need to go further and be fully aligned with land use and marine strategies.

The next NPF should complement the national Marine Plan to ensure that human activity and development at sea is managed through a plan-led approach, respecting environmental limits. In addition to completing a network of well managed Marine Protected Areas we also need fisheries which operate to achieve environmental sustainability and avoid adverse impacts on

seabirds and other wildlife. We also need a Scotland-wide programme of seabird island restoration and biosecurity to maximise breeding opportunities for seabirds, building resilience against climate change. Given we play host to a third of Europe's seabirds we have a significant international obligation to tackle the seemingly endless reductions in seabird numbers. By 2050 I'd also like discharges of oil and other hazardous substances to have been eliminated, plastic litter to have been substantially reduced and development of the circular economy. Scotland's seas in 2050 should be clean, healthy and biologically diverse.

In 2050 it should be normal for food to be produced in ways that help farmland wildlife survive and thrive. All farmers can protect soil and water resources and manage land in climate friendly ways. The national Land Use Strategy must also complement the NPF in setting the framework for a national ecological network,

with regional land use strategies linking to regional development planning to ensure that the national ecological network is a thread that connects the built environment with the farmed landscape for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Scotland's 'uplands', which include most of the highlands and islands, even at low altitudes, will continue to host important populations of birds and other wildlife, including the entire UK populations of some species. They can be sustainably and sensitively managed, balancing human land uses and natural habitats. High quality, well managed woodlands and forests should provide homes for wildlife and be places where people can connect with nature. Driving many of these changes should be public and private investment targeted towards schemes that deliver multiple environmental and social benefits not just timber supplies. Restoration of habitats damaged by previous inappropriately sited forestry schemes will be largely completed and many forests will ideally have been restructured to generate a broader range of wildlife and other public benefits. Peatlands and native woodlands will hopefully have been restored, providing important biodiversity resources,

**“Policy-making dominated by economic growth at the expense of other objectives is almost universal and at the root of many current environmental problems.”**

**“The built environment does not exist in isolation... the next NPF will need to go further and be fully aligned with land use and marine strategies.”**



clean water, carbon storage and increasing climate resilience, with these natural services recognised and protected through development plans.

By 2050, our increasing disconnect from nature should have been reversed. There must be safe, engaging places for everyone, particularly children, to experience nature close to home. Development plans and major developments need to identify, safeguard and create these opportunities as part of the national ecological network. As a result, there will be positive impacts on educational attainment, physical health, emotional wellbeing and interpersonal and social skills.

In 2050, Scotland's legislatures, governments, judiciary, other decision makers, including planners and planning committees, must be well-informed about the state of nature, understand its importance and be actively working towards its recovery. Environmental issues have to be a core part of training for planners. Citizens will be empowered to participate in, influence, and where necessary, challenge public

policy decisions affecting the environment – this will mean a reformed, more equal, planning appeals system.

There is little doubt the next 30 years will be amongst the most challenging Scotland has ever faced. Tackling climate change and biodiversity loss will require significant effort across the whole country and far beyond, but with the coordination and leadership of planning and planners, Scotland in 2050

could and should be a better place for nature and people. ■

# Article: Where do we go from here?



**Stephen Tucker**  
MRTPI  
Partner  
Barton Willmore

**Stephen Tucker, Partner at Barton Willmore, looks at what the profession needs to be able to deliver for Scotland in 2050.**

So, nearly 20 years on from Sam Galbraith making the link between town planning, place making and the economic prosperity of the country with his cry for ‘conservation areas of tomorrow’, where are they? Indeed where is the fully functioning ‘Plan Led’ system that underpinned the 2006 reform? A system which **systematically** enables placemaking, creates economic growth, and produces land use and infrastructure plans which deliver those ‘conservation areas of tomorrow’.

Planning in Scotland is at best ‘good but poorly resourced’, and at worst, an ‘insignificant little department that seems to cause way more grief than its size would suggest’. Conversely, planning and development has increasingly become a subject matter that the political class see as a clear vote winner, or more relevantly, a vote loser.

This system and profession has been under attack my whole career. A profession that used to genuinely shape places and steer big decisions has become an increasingly administrative function of local government. As worryingly, the news from Parliament on the progress of the Planning Bill demonstrates that the politicisation of planning which has been on the rise in local government for the last ten years, now seems to be increasingly prevalent at the national level.

And don’t just take the word of an old consultant smarting from continual

**“Planning and development has increasingly become a subject matter that the political class see as a clear vote winner, or more relevantly, a vote loser.”**

frustrations with an anti-development establishment. The result of the recent Barton Willmore planning review survey clearly suggests that planners across both public and private sectors share the same disillusionment with how things are going.

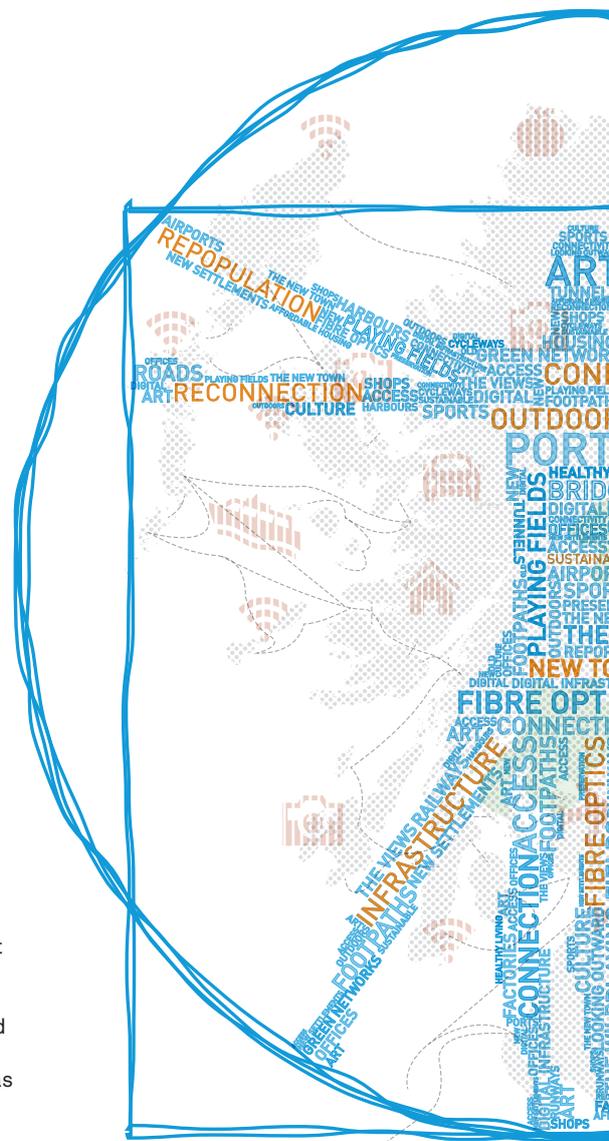
So, when asked to pen something on planning for 2050, I thought I’d start by highlighting the challenges that we face today.

Fewer planners are graduating than ever before. There are now only three Scottish planning schools when there used to be five and there is a significant brain drain of high quality people leaving the profession through early retirement or jumping across from public to private sector / the development side / the Reporters unit.

Local authority chief executives have had the tough task of reducing budgets year on year for as long as I can remember. The majority don’t see planning as an important function to have the fight on. The move to identify a Chief Planning Officer might help

this but only time will tell. Either way, how can we expect planning professionals in local government to think twenty or thirty years ahead, when their team or function might have to disappear in the next round of job cuts?

More fundamentally, while Scotland has a plan led system in name, it no longer has a plan led culture and has not had one for some time. The 2017 planning review



“Scotland needs new infrastructure, new settlements and, ambitious thinking on our lifestyle, energy and digital future.”



and its consultation feedback pointed to the singular importance of integrating planning for infrastructure with land use planning. It suggested a national infrastructure plan and / or agency as useful to do so. The Bill is quiet on this point, albeit I know that huge efforts are being made by the Scottish Government planners to ensure much more integrated thinking in planning land use and infrastructure. However, the question remains whether those in charge at Scottish Water, Transport Scotland, the NHS and the Education Department, are willing to allow a planning department at whatever level, to tell them where to direct their investment over the medium and long term.

I really hope that this key aspect can be resolved but until it is, I don't believe we have a genuinely Plan Led system.

So, in planning Scotland 2050, 'I wouldn't start from here' .....

In our recent snapshot of the development industry's views (and importantly over 40% of contributors identified themselves as public sector – either local government, public agency, community group and / or third sector) only 16% think that the Planning Bill will improve housing and infrastructure delivery. Only 10% thought that the outcomes would create a strong and positive planning system and with one eye on planning for 2050, only 6% thought that it would re-establish the profession as a leader and an innovator.

There is no doubt that the Review started off with the best intentions and I believe that the Scottish Government is working hard to deliver a workable Planning Act that addresses many of the concerns that I raise and that echoed through our survey. However in the context of a minority government, the danger is that this Planning Bill has become a political football. Individual MSPs and political parties are raising amendments and spending time on debates that are far away from the recommendations that emerged from the review process, or the consultation process that followed.

The saddest part of all this is that a proper plan led system (and culture) similar to that in the Netherlands or in much of Scandinavia, could radically improve our small country's chances of long term growth and economic prosperity. Indeed there is a good reason why these countries plan the way they do – it is because they realise that societies on the edge of Europe (whether in or out the EU) absolutely must make best use of limited resources and investment.

The next National Planning Framework is critically important to set the agenda for the system that follows on... and in true Barton Willmore fashion we've come up with a wee

graphic at centre page that shows some ideas....

While the image is little more than a glimpse into a troubled mind, the point is that we need to plan for long term growth. Scotland needs new infrastructure, new settlements and, ambitious thinking on our lifestyle, energy and digital future. The geographical answers to these questions are not rocket science in a country the size of Scotland. Delivering ambitious change through a planning system, through a coordinated agency approach and taking communities with us.... That's the difficult bit. That is the art of planning.

So to genuinely stand a chance of creating the best small country in Europe (whatever the final graphic looks like) we will need:

- A visionary and ambitious national (30 year+) plan that programmes where LDPs and their infrastructure partners deliver key projects and which sets targets on housing, employment, transport, energy production and usage and digital connectivity;
- An accompanying long term infrastructure plan that sits alongside this and directs where agencies prioritise and programme their investment; and,
- LDPs that are physical and delivery focused in nature (less policy, more clarity) and that are monitored and updated regularly and easily, particularly where sites don't deliver.

To achieve the above, we need a plan led culture and a profession (or at least process) that politicians and communities respect. And we planners will need to change. We will need to be more flexible. There will be no development management and policy silos but professionals that do a little bit less of a lot more – delivery, agency, land assembly, design and planning.

Planning has a significant and positive role to play in the future of Scotland but we need to be honest as to its role and the challenges which face the profession, right now. Our survey findings only underline what most practising planners (across all sectors) see every single day and which they expressed in the consultation that informed the initial Planning Review. We cannot lose sight of the core objectives that emerged from that process.

It's 2018. There is plenty time to get this right before 2050. We have a fantastic small country, world famous cities and an amazing people, culture and environment.

But we do still need to plan properly and independently.

And we do still need town planners. ■

# Update:

## Partners in Planning



**Irene Beautyman**  
MRTPI  
Planning for Place  
Programme Manager  
Improvement Service

**Irene Beautyman** of the Improvement Service introduces a brand new skills resource for planners and all those involved in planning in Scotland.

Delivering the New Planning System will take more than Legislative Change.

The ongoing delivery of our planning system is down to all those working within it. Sitting beside the legislative change currently making its way through Parliament are other crucial elements to achieve effective delivery: knowledge, skills and behavioural change. The aspirations within the Independent Panel Review and the Scottish Government's Places, People and Planning Consultation cannot be achieved by legislation alone. Behavioural change, informed by knowledge and skills development, will be crucial.

The RTPI Research Developing Skills, Behaviours and Knowledge to Deliver Outcomes asked how best to support planners to ensure they have access to all three elements in order to maximise effective delivery.

As a foundation to building effective delivery, the paper highlighted that although some organisations are best place to lead specific skills, future work would best be delivered through partnership of the key organisations and sectors involved. As a result, the **Partners In Planning** Forum has formed from the already established Scottish

Planning Skills Forum. This partnership of education and training providers, employers, Scottish Government and the RTPI is a collaboration that aims to:

- build the capacity we need to deliver quality places that promote wellbeing, sustainable communities and inclusive growth;
- pull together the skills, knowledge and behaviours of those working with Scotland's planning system to maximise their contributions to achieving these outcomes; and
- promote high quality and fit for purpose planning education and lifelong learning to support planning in Scotland.

Partners In Planning's highest priority has been to establish a single co-ordination point to share information, intelligence, good practice, news, events and training opportunities on planning and place-making through the launch of the Partners in Planning website. Launched in September this website provides those working with the Planning System with one access point to skills, knowledge and behavioural change by directly linking to relevant content on external

websites without the need to search through many levels of many different sites. Initial content links directly to partner organisations but this an evolving site with the opportunity for users to submit content that will inform skills.

The site was launched early in September at a Partners In Planning Event that invited young and mid-career level planners from all sectors to come together. With a theme of leadership, the event covered the skills specifically highlighted in the Planning Review. Each session was designed to move beyond knowledge sharing to include active learning sessions. All of these sessions are now available on the Partners In Planning website.

Moving forward, Partners In Planning will combine its support around promoting further initiatives aimed at enhancing skills, knowledge and behaviours to support improved planning practice. It will collaborate on the need to consider enhancing skills, knowledge and behaviours to improve planning practice and thereby provide constructive feedback on approaches to delivering the aspirations of the Planning Review. ■



# Update: Scottish Government News



## Programme for Government 2018

The Scottish Government's Programme for Government was published in early September. It recognises that Planning has a vital role to play in shaping Scotland, now and in the future. It commits the Government to:

- following passage of the Planning Bill, focus on delivering the changes needed to make the Planning system work for everyone. This includes the review of Scotland's National Planning Framework.
- continue to modernise and support the use of compulsory purchase orders to regenerate communities and deliver essential infrastructure.
- expand support for community-led design, building upon the successful use of the Place Standard tool to ensure early involvement by communities in shaping development in their area
- build the foundation for an efficient and high-performing digital planning system, maximising the huge opportunity to increase involvement of people, particularly young people, in their communities, using new ways to engage.

Programme for Government is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/09/6276>

## Planning Bill

The Planning Bill is currently progressing through Stage 2 of the Parliamentary process. Information on its progress can be found on the Scottish Parliament's website at: <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/107202.aspx>

The Scottish Government has published an update to the technical paper, setting out further details around the amendments in Part 1 of the Bill. Further details can be found on our website at: <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/review-of-the-scottish-planning-system---updates-to-inform-stage-2/>

## SAQP update

The interviews and site visits for SAQP2018 were undertaken in mid-September. Thanks to everyone for facilitating these. The judges have now considered all the shortlisted projects in the five categories, plus the Personal Achievement in Planning Award. The People's Choice Award voting closed on 30 September. The results of the vote and judges' deliberations will be announced at a ceremony in Edinburgh in November. Further details will be available shortly.

## Making Places Initiative 2018

Applications for the 2018-19 Making Places Initiative have now closed. However, the Place Standard Conversations fund remains open till the end of October. The aim is to support and encourage communities to make use of the Place Standard tool as a first step to understanding and improving their place. Please direct any enquiries to [architecture@gov.scot](mailto:architecture@gov.scot)

## Self and Custom Build loan fund

Building on the Self and Custom Build challenge fund to support the expansion of the sector, a £4 million, national Self-build Loan Fund was launched in September and will run for three years, offering eligible self-builders struggling to access financial assistance, loans of up to £175,000 for development costs related to their self-build project. It will be available in both urban and rural areas and is designed to help

applicants reach build completion allowing them to access a traditional mortgage which is then used to repay the loan. Further details are available at: <http://www.hscht.co.uk/scotland-self-build-loan-fund.html>

## Research projects

The following research reports have recently been published

Reasons for delays with planning applications for housing - <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/reasons-delays-planning-applications-housing/>

Monitoring the Outcomes of Planning - <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/08/5869>

Customer service and the planning system - <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/08/6051>

## Upcoming events

### Meetings with Planning Convenors and Heads of Planning Scotland

As part of an annual series of meetings, the Government's Planning and Architecture Division will meet planning committee convenors and the Heads of Planning for each Scottish local authority in November.

## Digital Strategy update

The launch of the Digital Strategy for Planning is planned for November 2018. It will set a bold and ambitious path for Scotland's planning system, redefining the role of digital technologies, to positively change the planning experience for professionals, individual citizens (including children and young people) and communities. ■

# Update:

## RTPI Scotland Update



RTPI President John Acres, Chief Executive Victoria Hills and Director for Scotland and Ireland Craig McLaren visited planners in Orkney in August. Orkney Islands Council's 'Team Stromness' scheme – a regeneration effort spanning the last ten years – took the top award at the UK National RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence earlier this year. The President presented the Silver Jubilee Cup to Stromness Councillor and Council Leader, James Stockan saying “what you have done here in Stromness can show the way forward for planning and transforming communities and I have no doubt that this ‘place-based’ approach could be used as a blueprint to revive towns and villages across the UK.

The President also met with elected members and officers from Orkney Islands Council's planning team to hear more on key projects that they are currently engaged in in Orkney, including Marine Spatial Planning, the role of the Council's planning team in the management of the World Heritage Site and the current Townscape Heritage Initiative in Kirkwall.

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RTPI Scotland has attended or presented at the following:

- the Heads of planning Scotland annual conference
- a Scottish Government feedback session on the Sustainability Appraisal of proposals to expand permitted development rights
- DPEA stakeholder roundtable
- Scottish Planning Skills Forum
- Digital Planning stakeholder engagement forum
- Scottish Alliance for People and Places Working Group

- Scotland's Towns Partnership Board
- Heads of Planning Scotland Executive Committee
- Built Environment Forum Scotland Historic Environment Working Group
- Heads of Planning Scotland Performance and Practice Committee
- Launch of the Partners in planning web portal

RTPI Scotland has also met with the following:

- Scottish Land Commission/ SEPA
- Paths for All
- Homes for Scotland
- Scottish Government Planning Bill team
- Engender
- Scottish Mediation
- the Academy of Urbanism Congress
- COSLA
- Heads of Planning Scotland PAS
- Yellow Book and Nick Wright Planning
- Zero Waste Scotland
- Scottish Government
- Campaign to End Loneliness
- Dundee University

### COMMUNICATIONS

The [@RTPIScotland](#) Twitter account now has 3607 followers and the [@ConvenorRTPI](#) account has 1214 followers.

### MEDIA

The Director of RTPI Scotland was on the BBC Radio Scotland Kaye Adams Show to discuss new towns on 2 July.

A news release was published on 2 July outlining how RTPI Scotland has joined forces with a number of high profile organisations in a letter sent to the Government and MSPs arguing for a change of direction in the

Scottish Planning Bill to move away from a system that entrenches confrontation to one that fosters positive conversation between all with a stake in an area.

The letter was published in The Herald on 29 June.

### ELECTIONS

This edition of the Scottish Planner contains papers seeking nominations for Junior Vice Convenor of RTPI Scotland in 2019, who will become Convenor in 2021. We are also seeking nominations to the Scottish Executive Committee. These roles are a key way of supporting and influencing the work of RTPI Scotland so please consider putting yourself forward.

### E-BULLETIN

RTPI Scotland will soon be introducing a monthly e-bulletin to update members on events organised by Chapters, the Scottish Young Planners' Network and RTPI Scotland, publications and news about the Institute's work in Scotland. This will replace all existing Chapter and SYPN mailings. To receive the newsletter you need to ensure that the RTPI has your up-to-date email address and that you have consented to receive communications from RTPI. To do this you will need to log in to the RTPI website [www.rtpi.org.uk](http://www.rtpi.org.uk), go to the “My RTPI” section and make sure that your contact details and preferences are up-to-date.

## Update: PAS

Ever wanted to change the world with a phone call? Or empower others from the comfort of your own living room? Want to stay up-to-date on the latest planning issues?

Every year, volunteers from the PAS Advice Service help hundreds of people and communities across Scotland, providing free, impartial and confidential advice about a whole range of planning issues.

The Advice Service is often the first port of call for members of the public when they encounter a planning issue for the first time, which is why we focus on delivering friendly and accessible advice to all who use the service.

Through the Advice Service, our volunteers share the benefit of their professional expertise and knowledge, to enable those who use our service to feel confident, knowledgeable and able to engage with the planning system themselves. This is one

of the ways in which our volunteers help build public capacity and awareness of the planning system.

To keep up with increasing demand for advice, we are looking to recruit more volunteers to our Advice Service – both from our existing volunteer network and by recruiting new volunteers.

Apart from the research that shows volunteering is good for your health, volunteering is also rewarding for your career. All PAS volunteers receive the opportunity to gain new skills and knowledge through regular CPD training events. The second half of this year will see CPD events on digital storytelling in the workplace for planners, Place Standard, children's rights and planning and safeguarding training, among others. In fact, all PAS volunteering opportunities offer rewarding experience and skills development, whether experience working with young people, developing facilitation



skills at community events or expanding your knowledge of different areas of planning through the advice service. Invest in your career by becoming a PAS volunteer.

To find out more, please contact Erin Fulton, Volunteers and Interns Manager, for a friendly chat: [erin@pas.org.uk](mailto:erin@pas.org.uk) 0131 220 9730.

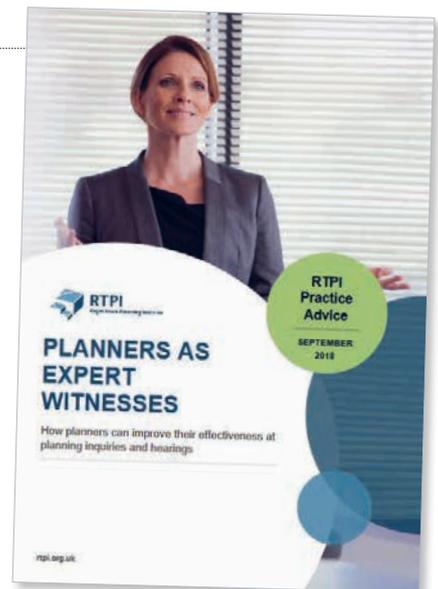
## Update: How planners can improve their effectiveness at planning inquiries and hearings

Acting as an expert witness at a planning inquiry or hearing is an important, but often nerve wracking part of being a professional planner. However, by taking the time and care to prepare thoroughly it is an excellent and rewarding test of your skills and knowledge as a planner.

The RTPI has worked with representatives of PEBA, the Planning and Environmental Bar Association to publish this practice advice. It sets out the duties and responsibilities of being an expert witness, along with top tips on how to improve your performance.

It also outlines the procedures for planners to secure professional access to barristers. The advice refers to the procedures that apply in England, Wales and Scotland.

Planning and Environmental Bar Association have said *"The Planning and Environmental Bar Association is pleased to have had a hand in drafting this Expert Witness practice advice which provides an insight into the role of giving expert evidence in a planning appeal context, along with some practical tips to make the presentation run smoothly."*



For more information please contact [practice@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:practice@rtpi.org.uk).

# Update:

## Policy Update



RRTPI Scotland aims to lead thinking on how planning can create great places for people. We do this by:

- Responding to policy consultations from Scottish Government, agencies and other organisations; and
- Discussing planning issues with policy makers including Ministers, MSPs and Civil Servants.

We are always keen to receive comments from members on any policy issues. Please contact Kate Houghton, RTPI Scotland's Planning Policy and Practice Officer, on [kate.houghton@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:kate.houghton@rtpi.org.uk) if you would like contribute to our responses to national consultations.

### PLANNING BILL

Stage 2 of the Planning Bill's progress through the Scottish Parliament began on 12 September. This stage involves detailed scrutiny by the lead Committee, the Local Government and Communities Committee, of proposed amendments to the Bill tabled by MSPs. At the time of writing almost 200 amendments have been tabled, and with the Committee sitting weekly stage 2 is anticipated to last well into the autumn.

RTPI Scotland has been successful in seeing amendments tabled on priorities identified by the Institute throughout the planning review process. These include introducing statutory Chief Planning Officers, retaining statutory strategic planning, removing the Penalty Clause, and defining a succinct, public interest driven purpose for the planning system. There are a number of other amendments tabled towards whose aims RTPI Scotland is sympathetic. Likewise, there are

amendments tabled whose inclusion in the final Act the Institute would not support. RTPI Scotland will provide briefing to MSPs throughout stage 2 outlining where we believe tabled amendments could improve the legislation, and where we believe they could hinder effective planning delivery. Stage 2 will conclude once all of the amendments tabled have been voted on by the members of the Local Government and Communities Committee.

Amendment of the Bill is still possible at stage 3, however there will be much less time available for debate at this stage, and only amendments selected by the Presiding Officer will be debated and voted on.

Meetings have been held with the following regarding the Planning Bill:

- Andy Wightman MSP
- Graham Simpson MSP
- Scottish Government Planning Bill team

### CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Responses have been submitted to the following consultations and requests for written evidence:

- Scottish Government - Developing an Environment Strategy for Scotland
- Scottish Parliament – Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee – Call for Evidence on the Transport Bill

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

**Programme for Government**  
Published September 2018  
Scottish Government

**The Invisible Land: The hidden force driving the UK's unequal economy and broken housing market**

Published August 2018  
IPPR

**Current workstreams – Chief Planner letter**

Published August 2018  
Scottish Government

**The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill SPICe briefing**

Published August 2018  
Scottish Parliament

**Compulsory Sales Orders – A Proposal**

Published August 2018  
Scottish Land Commission

**Monitoring the Outcomes of Planning: A Research Study**

Published August 2018  
Scottish Government

**Reasons for Delays with Planning**

**Applications for Housing**  
Published August 2018  
Scottish Government

**Customer Service and the Planning System - A Research Study**

Published August 2018  
Scottish Government

**The Impacts of Brexit on UK Implementation of Key EU Legislation Affecting Land Use**

Published July 2018  
RTPI

**Chief Planning Officers**

Published June 2018  
RTPI

## RTPI SCOTLAND CONTACTS



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Fraser chairs the Scottish Executive Committee and the Scottish Forum for Planning. He also represents RTPI Scotland at the RTPI General Assembly, and sits on the RTPI Policy, Practice and Research Committee.

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**Craig McLaren, FRTPI  
Director**

Craig leads on public affairs, stakeholder relationships, development of CPD and skills, and communications. He is Co-Editor of Scottish Planner and Secretariat to the Communications Education and Lifelong Learning Sub Committee.

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**Kate Houghton  
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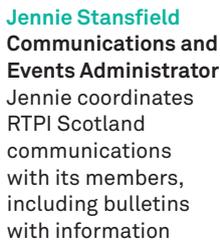
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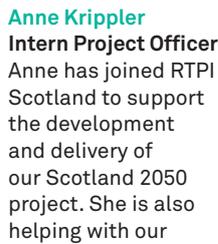
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**Jennie Stansfield  
Communications and Events Administrator**

Jennie coordinates RTPI Scotland communications with its members, including bulletins with information about chapter and national events. Jennie is also responsible for keeping the Scotland sections of the RTPI website up to date, and assists with the delivery of our national CPD events.

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**Anne Krippler  
Intern Project Officer**

Anne has joined RTPI Scotland to support the development and delivery of our Scotland 2050 project. She is also helping with our work to influence the Planning Bill, and other elements of the planning review.

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...contributing to the renaissance in  
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## Environmental Impact Assessments

Edinburgh, 21 November 2018

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# SPCF

## Scottish Planning Consultants Forum

The Scottish Planning Consultants Forum represents the private sector planning profession for both independent consultants and those employed by small and large consultancies. We have successfully engaged with both the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament on the Planning Review and the Planning (Scotland) Bill.

If you wish to find out more about the SPCF or be involved, please contact either John MacCallum or Stuart Salter.

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