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Editorial

By the time you read this there is a real possibility that Scotland will have new Planning Act, though we probably said that last year! One of the things that has shone out to me through the progress of the planning bill has been that although many politicians 'get' what planning's regulatory function is about, they are less likely to understand the important role it has in setting out and delivering vision. As us planners know, good planning is a key means of preventative spend – making sure investments are future-proofed to ensure they have a positive impact.

Given this, I am pleased that his edition of the Scottish Planner looks at our role in improving health and wellbeing. The different articles contained really demonstrate how planners are working to improve health outcomes now and the in the future including how placemaking can support ambitions on cleaner air; the role of planning in delivering

the National Walking Strategy; the impact of the built environment on mental health and wellbeing; and how Health Impact Assessment which are being delivered.

They also helpfully highlight the future opportunities we have to reinforce this – especially regarding the public health reform currently underway and the link between spatial and community planning. We could have filled the pages on health projects several times over, which perhaps shows the importance and relevance of the issue. As we move toward a new planning regime we can use this to show the value and importance of planners, planning and the planning system to make a difference.

Feel free to get in touch if any of the articles spark a thought or idea, or, if you would like to contribute to a future edition.

— Craig McLaren, Co-Editor

Convenor's Comments: Planning & Health



Julia Frost
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Julia Frost, Convenor of RTPI Scotland 2019, outlines her commitment to advances in professionalism and community engagement.

Hello

I'm lucky to live opposite a park. 'My' park is a green haven of mature trees, play parks, paths and hidden dens. It has cut grass for playing football and rough grass for wild flowers; a green oasis I can see and almost touch from my living room and bedroom windows. NHS Scotland has evidenced that living close to green and natural environments has a positive effect on physical and mental health and that people living close to greenspace are more likely to be physically active. It's a no brainer that planners need to 'plan' for more functional, connected greenspace in our neighbourhoods, towns and cities to improve our health and wellbeing.

Of course it's built into our DNA to feel good in natural spaces. I'm currently reading a fascinating book called 'Sapiens' which says that to understand our nature, history and psychology we must get inside the heads of our hunter-gatherer ancestors. The book says that today's environment gives us more material resources and longer lives than those enjoyed by any previous generation, but it often makes us feel alienated, depressed and pressured.

We, as planners, have a duty to create environments that make us feel healthy and happy, in the long term public and national interest. Different communities will want and need different things and we must seek bespoke solutions depending on climate, demographics and levels of deprivation. NHS Scotland says that those living in areas of greatest socioeconomic deprivation are less likely to live within walking distance of greenspace and are less likely to be satisfied

with that greenspace. Improving access to and the quality of greenspace in proportion to need therefore has the potential to reduce health inequalities. I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Scottish Planner focusing on planning and health.

So what have I been up to since the last edition of the Scottish Planner?

I really enjoyed chairing the Scottish Young Planner's Conference in Dundee. It was an uplifting experience, action packed and interactive. The Chief Planners of the future are positive and passionate and want to create possibilities to deliver effective planning. They are willing to accept risks and take personal ownership to challenge the status quo. They emphasised the need to:

- be **visionary** - dream big, think long term, get community buy-in
- encourage **inter-departmental** planning led solutions – with the capacity to disagree to create partnerships, trust and resilience
- use **design** to support sustainable resilient communities – again creating that crucial **link between planning and health**

I continue, of course, to help RTPI Scotland in influencing the Planning Bill at Stage 3 and beyond, and we are now focusing our efforts on briefing MSP's and the Scottish Government. We are also in the process of making recommendations to Government on the drafting of the National Planning Framework 4.

I know that some of you will be keen to hear that we've now launched RTPI Scotland's International Group. The purpose of this group is to encourage more debate and interest, in RTPI Scotland, about global planning issues and Scotland's planning role internationally. If you are involved, or have been/would like to be involved, in planning outside the UK, then let's get RTPI Scotland engaged in these discussions to help champion your work and enlighten other Scottish planners. Town planning is international; the RTPI has over 25,000 members. It has global reach and many planners in countries like South Africa and Hong Kong are MRTPI. We're keen to share what planners around the world are doing and they are keen to hear from us in Scotland. The need to collaborate internationally to help combat Climate change is making these international connections, and debate, all the more significant.

My very best wishes, Julia

Article:

Planning and Infrastructure: A little less conversation, a little more action... Please!



Sarah Baillie
Planning Partner
Addleshaw Goddard
LLP

Sarah Baillie, Planning Partner at Addleshaw Goddard LLP, highlights key debates surrounding infrastructure provision and the Scottish Planning Bill in advance of the first RTPi Scotland and Addleshaw Goddard Annual Debate.

Infrastructure provision has been a major challenge to delivering development, especially housing, for a generation. It was also one of four key themes of the planning review where the real significant change was to come through an “infrastructure first approach” with a much better integration between planning authorities, infrastructure providers and developers as well as local and national strategies for growth & investment.

Recognising that high-quality infrastructure underpins inclusive economic growth, sustainable communities and the effective provision of public services, the Scottish Government has also set a National Infrastructure Mission to increase infrastructure investment to £6.7bn by 2025-26. Scottish Future Trust’s (SFT) Corporate Plan sets out the outcomes it will work with partners to deliver, with a particular focus on enabling development in places where jobs can be created and homes built – bringing public and private sector partners together with a focus on infrastructure and innovative financing to unlock the potential of places and assets.

When the planning bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament, many of us expected a stronger, high-performing framework would be created to contribute to inclusive growth by enabling housing and infrastructure delivery. Ultimately, strengthening the strategic role of planning in co-ordinating and supporting the delivery of infrastructure needed to facilitate development, including

much needed housing. The bill as passed contains a requirement for the NPF to have regard to an infrastructure investment plan published by the Scottish Ministers and include a statement setting out the ways it has been taken into account in preparing the NPF and the infrastructure of an area and how it is used. However, most frustratingly, it does not address the question as to how physical infrastructure provision, whether in the form of transport networks, utilities or facilities to allow communities to thrive, will be aligned, co-ordinated & delivered. It also introduces potential powers for an infrastructure levy but now leaves the practical details as to how this will operate in practice to be consulted on later. There are still strong reservations and concerns whether the infrastructure levy is truly an infrastructure tax or rather a land value tax. All of this does not sit well with developers or the property industry – their view remains that the costs and complexities may have been significantly underestimated.

Amendments relating to Land Value Capture also had been proposed as potential way of delivering homes and infrastructure but many were concerned that it was premature and ill thought out, actually akin to the levy or a current s75 model where the amount for developer contributions is offset against land value. In addition, there were questions whether it worked when it does not recognise that there are significant amounts of undeveloped and derelict land in Scotland where land values are already low – often

in the areas which need regeneration and are crying out for infrastructure provisions. Many will no doubt welcome that the proposal has been taken out at final debate.

Just before the final debate, the Scottish Land Commission (SLC) produced Options for Land Value Capture and together with the SFT produced an interim report on Enabling Infrastructure – “A Discussion Document”. The latter paper claims to develop further the infrastructure first approach building on the independent review and the core principle of prioritisation, funding and delivery. Ultimately, the research paper captures that there is no ‘silver bullet’ or quick fix – the different elements outlined throughout it can layer a system that can work collectively to drive wider investment and economic activity. The research shows whatever happens there still needs to be an adequate supply of land brought forward for development. Longer term, ways need to be found to establish a more collaborative approach to placemaking.

During the final stage debate, the Minister confirmed that the issue of land value capture deserves careful examination and consultation. The Minister stated that they will work with the SLC, the SFT, local authorities and industry representatives to identify how local authorities can best use existing mechanisms to fund infrastructure and what support they may need to do so; and that they will also look at how new mechanisms such as the levy and land pooling might complement existing



mechanisms, and whether any changes are required to existing legislation.

The Bill was meant to facilitate an opportunity to let planners focus on delivering outcomes and not process. It remains a valid concern to the development industry and those targeted with meeting and delivering placemaking, through much needed housing and economic growth, jobs and local investment, that the status quo remains regarding unresolved questions and processes surrounding infrastructure. This was, after all, meant to be an integrated package of measures and the “infrastructure first approach” was a crucial part of the independent review. The opportunity has clearly been missed to take action, tackle holistically and head on an issue that every government has side stepped.

“Hard” infrastructure developments are a vital driver of the economy and placemaking and is what truly distinguishes a ‘global city’ or nation – connecting people effectively and enabling them to work, live and play. Everyone knows that uncertainty and delays in infrastructure development leads to a dampening of investment appetites. “Soft” social or green and blue infrastructure also support quality of life by promoting quality of place and empowering communities. Investment in education, health and affordable housing, as well as community areas and social benefit services, is also essential for economic growth. This is why many still consider that the failure

to address infrastructure fundamentally undermines the Bill’s objectives in creating a game changing system to contribute to inclusive growth by enabling housing and infrastructure delivery as well as supporting quality of life by promoting quality of place and empowering communities.

On a personal level, I began to take a real interest in infrastructure provision, planning gain and how it related to development plan policy and solving housing delivery when writing my undergraduate honours dissertation in the nineties. I reviewed development charges of the late 40s, development value capture of the 60s, infrastructure levies of the 70s; and the current mechanism of planning agreements – s75s – introduced in the early 70s. I thought then why haven’t we tried to resolve this? Why aren’t the public and private sectors aligned and learning from each other? Surely this is a funding problem nationally and something needs to be facilitated and co-ordinated otherwise nothing will be delivered? I was fascinated that only Grampian Regional Council were the ones trying to tackle this head on. They were doing so by identifying key infrastructure requirements and developer contributions into development plan policy to try and be open and transparent as possible and their main aim off course was to resolve the pressure for housing delivery with a key structure plan priority of a Western Peripheral Road to fund sitting alongside it. It is perhaps ironic that the legality of the

policy mechanism for funding the Western Periphery route ended up being at the heart of the Supreme Court case of *Elsick Development Company Limited v Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority 2018 SC (UKSC)* is the one matter the Bill does address.

The continued debate over infrastructure provides a platform for the public and private sector to collide and interact and I am therefore personally delighted that the first RTPI Scotland and Addleshaw Goddard Annual Debate, later in the year, will focus on infrastructure and hope that as many members will attend and join in what is likely to be a lively and interesting debate.

Now that the Bill has completed its parliamentary passage, we all must start to look forward and focus on planning being an enabler with long-term co-ordination from national to local level. We need to find innovative ways and alternative funding solutions. We must start to turn discussions into actions and if there is to be further legislative change we must stop trying to retrofit solutions into existing legislative processes. We all know that it must be time to change a failed approach that has existed for almost 50 years as infrastructure improvements, as they have always done, will continue to be the key building blocks for economic growth and placemaking. ■

Q&A

Public Enquiries



Alasdair Adey
MRTPI
Project Manager,
EnergieKontor UK Ltd

Alasdair Adey MRTPI, Project Manager at EnergieKontor UK Ltd and the 2018/19 Past-Chair of the Scottish Young Planners Network answers our questions.

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

I have been fortunate throughout my career to work with some fantastic individuals who have shared their knowledge and provided me with a great deal of inspiration. At Heriot Watt University Dr Chris McWilliams engaged my critical thinking and developed my understanding and appreciation of the impact of planning. During my professional career my biggest influence has been working with Clare Walters and the team at Arcus Consulting, particularly in developing my understanding and experience of renewable energy projects which remain the focus of my career to-date.

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

I believe there is a real lack of understanding, appreciation and recognition towards the planning profession and the critical role planning has in delivering successful places throughout Scotland. Successful planning ultimately involves finding a balance between differing constraints and requirements to deliver successful developments, and when this is done well it can often be easy for the public and other professions to overlook the positive role planning has in the delivery of projects. As industry professionals we are aware of the significant value planning can add to an emerging development, however it remains too easy for the public to focus on the negatives of planning, fuelled by a lack of appreciation regarding political, social and economic drivers. We need to ensure that where planning has played a positive role

appropriate recognition is provided, and there is an effective understanding into the wider drivers behind a proposal. We therefore need to continue to promote the achievements of the profession and the hard work and expertise offered by planners throughout Scotland to deliver great projects and places.

3 Why is planning important?

Balancing development needs with our special built and natural environments is a highly skilled role, that not only improves the quality of a place but can have a positive impact on quality of life. In my own experience the best projects occur when a balance is struck between economic, design, environmental and conservation requirements, and the role of a planner is fundamental to achieving this collaboration. Through the production of Development Plans and individual site-specific feasibility studies the planning profession plays a vital role in initially considering the potential for development to occur and whether any impacts can be suitably mitigated, and this work creates a routemap for an emerging development that, if consented, can ensure the delivery of great projects that benefit both present and future generations.

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

Planning plays a crucial role in creating great places for people and there are numerous recent examples of how planning has transformed places. I was fortunate enough to be a judge for the 2018 Scottish Awards

for Quality in Planning which allowed me to see some of the most innovative projects throughout Scotland. Projects that deliver a significant improvement to the public realm whilst promoting permeability and accessibility really impressed me, including Dundee Waterfront and Queens Quay in Clydebank. I am also an advocate of projects that have facilitated recreational access to areas whilst promoting health and wellbeing, such as Whitelee Windfarm near Glasgow.

5 Are there any specific issues planning schools are experiencing that concern you?

My role within the SYPN has allowed me to meet many young planning professionals over the past few years and there are some fantastic graduate planners entering the profession and working towards their MRTPI chartership. One issue I have been made aware of is concerns regarding the professional development of young planners, particularly through the APC process. I have been fortunate to have had CPD support throughout my career and from my own experience I believe it is important to establish a conjoined approach between employer and employee towards professional development, setting realistic goals whilst ensuring that a suitable variety of experience can be obtained. big challenges for planning schools and planning education. The resource allocation to small planning schools is a complex jigsaw to manage. Seeing more students from Scottish high schools taking up planning as a career, is a major challenge for the planning profession. ■

Immaterial Considerations

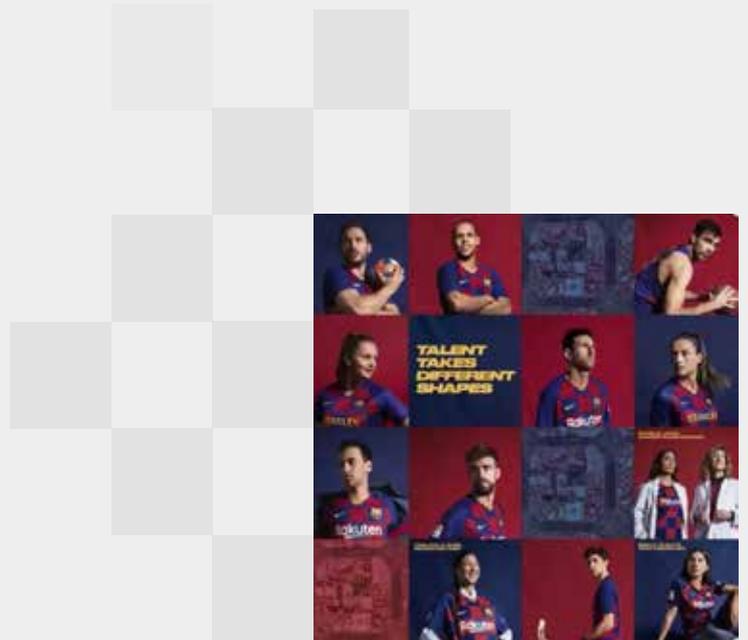
Principles, principles...



Readers may be aware of the recent launch of the Place Principle by Scottish Government which very laudably asks organisations to commit to taking “A collaborative, place based approach with a shared purpose to support a clear way forward for all services, assets and investments which will maximise the impact of their combined resources.” All makes sense to us planners surely.

However, the principle has been the focus of a bit of teasing after a debate in Parliament where journalist Liam Kirkcaldy in Holyrood magazine where he highlighted how some struggled to understand the concept. For example the article is entitled The Scottish Parliament enters a parallel universe and its first line is “The Scottish Parliament’s debate on the Place Principle was open, honest and stimulating. It was vibrant. It was passionate. The only thing that undermined the discussion was the growing sense that no one in the room had any idea what ‘the Place Principle’ actually is.”

An amusing read, not to be taken too seriously, at <https://www.holyrood.com/articles/comment/sketch-scottish-parliament-enters-parallel-universe>.



Football Fashion’s Planning Passion

The geeks in the Immaterial Considerations team noticed some planning interest in the recent launch of the new Barcelona FC football strip. Controversially the team has moved away from its traditional and world-famous blue and red stripes to a new strip which is made up square blocks. Apparently one of the influences behind this move was to recognise the importance of the city’s block layout, as shown in the publicity above.

It makes us wonder if this is something that Scottish football clubs should be considering. Celtic’s hoops changing to squares to recognise the Glasgow grid? Heart’s maroon tops to be emblazoned with a map of the new town? Or Clyde’s strips to illustrate Cumbernauld’s modernist new town vision?



Walking the Talk?

The RTPi Scotland staff team is attempting to put our foot where our mouth is by taking part in this year’s Step Count Challenge. This is organised by Paths for All to get people more active through walking more in our day-to-day lives. Participants take part in teams of five. Participants measure the distance walked each day which is then recorded on the Step Count Challenge website.

Under the witty moniker of the Really Town Plodding Institute, we each count the steps we take each day over an eight week period. It has become a competitive business with staff members comparing and contrasting the number of steps they have taken and having a keen eye on where we stand on the leaderboard among the organisations who are also taking part. The ambition is to be among the top 100. At the time of writing we currently sit at a respectable **79th with 2,574,389 steps** taken by the five members of the team.



Elaine Fotheringham
MRTPI
Senior Planning
Officer SEPA



In Focus: SEPA publishes new guidance on climate change allowances for flood risk assessment

Elaine Fotheringham Senior Planning Officer at SEPA, provides an overview of newly published SEPA guidance on climate change allowances for flood risk assessment in land use planning.

Last year the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a stark warning that the world must act quickly in order to limit global warming to 1.5 0C. In Scotland, we have seen some significant steps taken on the issue of climate change in recent weeks: Scotland's First Minister has declared a climate emergency, and the Scottish Government, acting on advice from the UK Committee on Climate Change, proposed an amendment to its Climate Change Bill to set a target for net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045.

At SEPA, we are playing our part in helping Scotland adapt to future predicted climate change. We believe that in order to create successful places that will stand the test of time, land use planning decisions must be underpinned by the best evidence on potential future changes to our climate. Therefore, in early May we published new guidance on climate change allowances for flood risk assessment in

land use planning: https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/426913/lups_cc1.pdf.

The guidance sets out recommended allowances for climate change that can be applied to Flood Risk Assessments submitted in support of a planning application, or used by local authorities when undertaking a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to inform the development plan. It supersedes previous SEPA advice on climate change allowances for flood risk assessment, which the science now strongly suggests is underestimating future likely impacts. The science also shows that climate change impacts are likely to vary considerably across Scotland, and this is reflected in the new guidance through a move from national to regional climate change allowances.

SEPA estimates that 284,000 existing homes, businesses and services are at flood risk in Scotland, and it is predicted that climate change will increase the number of existing properties at risk by an additional 110,000 by 2080. The planning

system therefore has a critical role to play in ensuring that new development does not add to this total. Scottish Planning Policy 2014 recognises that climate change will increase the risk of flooding in some parts of the country, and that the planning system should promote a precautionary approach to flood risk, taking account of the predicted effects of climate change. Our new guidance helps planning authorities and others involved in the assessment of flood risk implement this approach. ■

If you have any questions or comments on the guidance, we'd love to hear from you: please email us at planning.questionnaire@sepa.org.uk.

For more information on how flooding is managed in Scotland, please visit SEPA's flooding webpages: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding/>

In Practice: The Stirling Enhanced Landscape Mitigation Project



Julian Farrar
MRTPI
Director Ironside
Farrar

The Stirling Enhanced Landscape Mitigation Project, winner of the RTPI Excellence in Planning for the Natural Environment 2019, is an innovative project that has sought to empower local communities and community groups to develop locally relevant environmental mitigation projects through engagement, co-design and participatory community action.

The Energy Minister tasked Scottish Power Energy Networks and partners (Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, Stirling Council and the Central Scotland Green Network) to develop enhanced proposals for environmental mitigation in the Stirling area impacted by the 400 KV overhead line based on the principles of a Green Network.

The challenge was to develop projects with local community groups - empowering each of the nine community council areas to identify and shape projects around their needs within a broad project framework. Empowerment

“Engagement sought to share knowledge, build capacity and support local decision making around place and specific local needs”

of communities in design, co-design and collaborative working were all relatively new ideas –back in 2010 –and the initial challenge was in communicating the intent and the commitment to give communities the authority and responsibility to select their projects and confirm our role as working alongside each group with design and project management support.

The result has been both rewarding and innovative. Communities rose to the challenge. Diverse groups came together to identify and conceptualise projects. Some included schools and some special interest

groups (heritage / wildlife / walking-cycle / carers / local societies /etc) but all quickly short-listed their ideas and projects which were then sketched out and tested on the ground.

The engagement was extensive and resource intensive. In the early stages this involved re-building a level of trust and support from local groups following a contentious planning consent period. Re-setting relationships and working arrangements required openness on all sides and a revised focus on opportunity with a new focus on delivery and how best to develop a shared best practice approach.

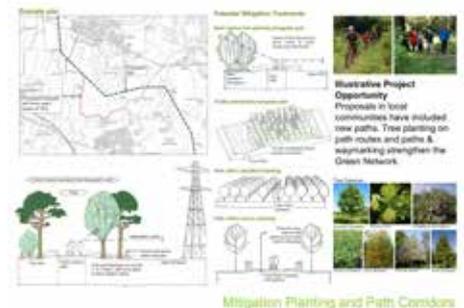
The partners worked directly with communities supporting ideas, showing relevant similar examples, providing information on costs, risks and deliverability. Differences in ideas and ambition were worked through in facilitated workshops that invited groups to challenge thinking or find alternatives. Engagement sought to share knowledge, build capacity and support local decision making around place and specific local needs. Interestingly many of the communities shared a common project focus. Walking and cycling were identified as supportive of the whole community (young-old / singles-families) and offering long term value in terms of health and well-being, safe connections and shared infrastructure.

The physical works were important but are potentially not the most fundamental outcome of the project. Central to the planning purpose has been the engagement with the project, pioneering new routes for engagement and local devolved decision making. The legacy hopefully will be in

the community's sense of ownership and confidence and the value in participation in planning.

The project has sought to build a ‘bottom-up’ counter-balance to the standard approaches to project planning still focussing on environmental and social needs but demonstrating a commitment to local decision making and acknowledging that more often than not the best decisions are made at local level and in the hands of the communities. ■

Images courtesy of Courtesy of Ironside Farrar



Article:

Place & Public Health Reform

Eibhlin McHugh, Margaret Douglas and Irene Beautyman outline the challenge of aligning policy and practice with the well evidenced links between place-making and public health.

Place, public health reform and the case for the early adopter

The impact of good spatial planning and place-making on public health is well documented but the real challenge facing Scotland is putting these evidenced links into aligned policy and practice. Eibhlin McHugh, Margaret Douglas and Irene Beautyman come together to promote how using a whole system approach can enable, support and drive action that goes beyond physical impact, such as carbon emissions, to indirect social effects such as the exercise we take and the people we meet...

With Public Health Scotland due to launch in April 2020 we're faced with a golden opportunity to reunite health with place and planning. Work to test and refine closer alignment has become an "early adopter" of the collaborative whole system approach to support each other in the creation of places and communities that enable and sustain health and wellbeing.

Scotland's health challenges go far beyond the control of the NHS and is not about any one organisation. Change is driven by the Christie commission identified need for public services to work much more closely to prevent negative health outcomes from arising. The Public Health Reform agenda is a partnership between Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA). It recognises that to tackle Scotland's significant public health challenges will

take the combined efforts of partners from across the public, private and third sectors and, importantly, from within communities.

The Reform aims to challenge our current ways of working through three themes. First, with agreed public health priorities around place & community, physical activity, mental health & wellbeing and poverty & inequality that focus on preventing rather than reacting to poor health outcomes. Second, will be the creation of Public Health Scotland to lead and support collaboration to improve health and wellbeing in Scotland. And, finally, reform will support different ways of working to deliver tangible progress on Scotland's public health priorities through the development of a whole system approach to improve health and reduce inequalities. Adopting a whole systems approach to place and community will involve testing new ways of working and learning alongside local and national partners. The role of 'early adopters' in applying a whole system approach will be key to driving change across the wider system and building momentum on Scotland's public health priorities.

Established evidence and support

You don't have to look far to see more established alignment between health and place. Spatial planning in England and Wales has been enabled to proactively shape built and natural environments to help promote health and wellbeing. In England progress is led by National Planning Guidance documents and statements in the Health

and Social Care Act 2012. In Wales the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act requires public bodies to take account of long term consequences of their decisions. The Public Health (Wales) Act requires public bodies to conduct Health Impact Assessments and Public Health Wales to assist them in this.

This direction is also supported by the **World Health Organisation**², **Public Health England research**³ and Glasgow Centre for Population Health⁴ which evidences that the way places are planned impacts, for good or ill, on health. This includes:

- Safe, convenient active travel and neighbourhood design that promotes physical activity, enhanced social connections and strengthened mental health.
- Compact neighbourhood design with walkable local facilities and public transport accessibility allowing car free access to jobs and wider services, delivering health benefits but also reducing the impact of poverty.
- Increased access to natural and planned green space with varied and safe opportunities to play and meet. This has a positive impact on physical activity levels and mental health.
- Wide choice of good quality affordable homes, enhancing health and reduces poverty. Each of the above reduce carbon emissions and enhance air and water quality.

What makes us healthy?

AS LITTLE AS **10%** of a population's health and wellbeing is linked to access to health care.

We need to look at the bigger picture:

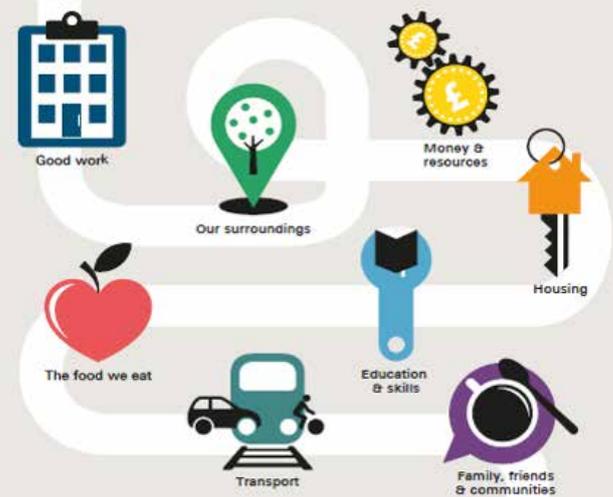


Image Courtesy of West Lothian Council

In addition, the World Health Organisation concludes that to promote better health there is a need to break down topic silos and, specifically, to promote cooperation between public health, planning and environmental sectors.

What about Scotland?

In Scotland the National Performance Framework places increased wellbeing at the centre of the national purpose, and recognises the need for partnership work across organisations and sectors to achieve this. Scottish Cabinet support for the Place Principle requests that Scotland's leaders make more collaborative working around Place the norm - this offers a further core prevention opportunity for Scotland's new public health body to embrace. The Place Standard Tool is being widely used to help improve the quality of places. It aims to facilitate conversations around a truly whole system approach to place, which enables alignment of closer health and place links.

However, there's currently no direct statement in Scotland around the need for planning authorities and health organisations to collaborate around the above evidence. Glasgow City Council's **Equally Well Programme**⁵,⁶ and **West Lothian Council's Health Impact Assessment Guidance**⁷ are the exception rather than the rule. In both cases, support has been heavily enabled by staff from one service area physically spending time in another to understand shared ambitions and capacity to collaborate on local issues. Time invested to build close working relationships is key to whole system working.

As we look to build more effective relationships across the whole system it's important to understand each other's perspectives. In this context, the Improvement Service's Place Programme have led conversations with practitioners from both Planning and Health to identify how place can play a bigger part in the whole system delivery of the public health priorities. Discussions found a strong appetite for more collaboration focussed on how to mainstream a **Health in all Policies**⁸ approach in Local Development Plans and / or the use of **Health Impact Assessments**⁹. Both are designed to lead and guide the creation of places taking full account of impact on public health. Local experience suggests that while the importance of place to create conditions for health is well recognised¹⁰, what is missing is the national support, akin to English and Welsh counterparts. Providing such support would enable planning authorities in an ask around health impact and create the change to turn collaboration from the exception into the norm.

Next steps

Discussions confirm that what would help

now to achieve more effective collaboration is to define Scotland's principles for Place and Health. These will demonstrate links between planning principles, the places they shape and their impact on positive health outcomes and will link to the existing Place Standard Tool. Akin to Public Health England's Spatial Planning for Health Paper, they will focus national level leadership and support for both the emerging Public Health Scotland and the next National Planning Framework.

A defined set of health and place principles could not only inform policy but also provide the place remit for scoping the feasibility of Public Health Scotland becoming the consultation authority on population health. This would further enable the opportunity to support the health impact of national and local planning policy and major development applications. Scoping feasibility as part of this "early adopter" work will inform considerations around Public Health Scotland's capacity to work more collaboratively with planning authorities alongside evolving links with Community Planning Partners.

As the reform team look to reaffirm the ambition for Public Health Scotland to be outward looking and collaborative this is an opportunity to examine how the new organisation's remit can support - and its people lead - mainstreaming an approach. Turning evidence into policy and policy into action needs greater levels of understanding of our shared ambition and implanting greater levels of cooperation to achieve them.

What can we all do?

By far the biggest opportunity to engage and contribute to our ambition for national public health leadership is the Consultation on the establishment of Public Health Scotland. This was launched in June 2019 for six weeks.

In addition, a cross sector Place Working Group has formed from initial Improvement Service led discussions and it will work collaboratively with health and spatial planning to progress the above steps.

Finally, turning evidence into policy and policy into action needs greater levels of understanding of our shared ambition and implanting greater levels of cooperation to achieve them. There is a need to bring together the learning and progress outlined above and instil greater levels of awareness and collaboration within the emerging public health and planning landscape between public health, health and social care, spatial planning and community planning. The first step in this process will be an event in the autumn delivered jointly with the Public Health Reform programme and Improvement Service.

Turning the "exception" into normal working practice requires more than good

working relationships that can fall away as staff move on. We need to demonstrate new ways of working to inform the next phase of reform and establish the role of Public Health Scotland and its workforce to be effective in leading and supporting a whole system approach with place and community at the core of our collective endeavour to improve health and wellbeing in Scotland. ■

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Elibhlin McHugh
Public Health Reform Team
Scottish Government



Margaret Douglas
Usher Institute of Population Health Sciences and Informatics
Edinburgh University



Irene Beautyman
MRTPI
Planning for Place Programme Manager
The Improvement Service

Article:

Taking a long view on air quality and place



Gillian Dick
MRTPI
Spatial Planning
Manager, Glasgow
City Council

Gillian Dick, Spatial Planning Manager at Glasgow City Council, explains how a modified place standard tool was used to prioritised air quality and the heart of place making.

Taking a long-view, it is evident that many of the challenges we face in delivering air pollution improvements, especially in our towns and cities, result from the inertia and frictions of past economic geography, providing us with an inheritance of built environments that are probably not fit for purpose in the 21st century. Much of that also shows the dominance over the last 120 years of the car, lorry and bus and the internal combustion engine driving them that were just seen as a straight replacement for horse and cart and first generation trams.

In the 2015 the Cleaner Air for Scotland (CAFS) strategy set out some of the significance and dimensions of Placemaking,

It's not new. Writing in 1915, about Madras, India Patrick Geddes stated that:

"Town Planning is not mere place-planning, nor even work planning. If it is to be successful it must be folk planning. This means that its task is not to coerce people into new places against their associations, wishes, and interest, as we find bad schemes trying to do. Instead its task is to find the right places for each sort of people; place where they will really flourish"

As part of the original Placemaking workstream for CAFS the use of the PlaceStandard to initiate conversations around air quality was piloted in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Crieff. The pilot was led by

Planning Aid Scotland and a full report of the findings is available. However in summary an air quality technical

Finally it's worth noting that the first iteration of CAFS sought to deliver a Low Emission Zone within one of the main Cities by December 2018. Glasgow was identified as the preferred location. In the midst of the delivery work for the low emissions zone a connectivity commission was set up in the City led by Prof David Begg. The commission noted that major cities are cities of contradictions. They may be really good at some things, for instance in Glasgow's case having the largest suburban rail network out with London, but as passenger numbers have grown the network has struggles to cope. In contrast in a city with below average car ownership levels major road construction projects such as the M74 continue to be greenlighted. The report states;

"Along with other successful major cities, Glasgow is facing the key urban challenge of our times – how to repurpose transport networks built for the unsustainable, high carbon economy in order to prioritise pedestrians and create attractive, people-centred places supporting thriving populations in a clean and healthy city centre environment." ■

"If we get Placemaking right, we can tackle air pollution, create better, more sustainable places and contribute to better, healthier lives"

essentially the way we plan, design and manage our towns and cities. The role of greenspaces was clearly identified in and around new developments as resources, as buffers and spaces for recreation, active mobility and nature. It was seen as imperative that new developments be designed to better manage vehicles in our towns and cities, generating less traffic, linking to bus and walking and cycling routes and wherever possible prioritising active travellers over vehicles. Clearly we have opportunities to get this more right in all new developments but large challenges remain when it comes to adapting existing places to contemporary and future needs and priorities. If we get Placemaking right, we can tackle air pollution, create better, more sustainable places and contribute to better, healthier lives and higher amenity and improved conditions for work, life and play. This in turn makes locations more attractive for business too.

version of the PlaceStandard tool was created by shifting the main focus to "improving air quality". The prompt questions that sit under each of the tools questions, were adjusted to bring air quality and health to the fore. The intention was to enable better conversations between communities of interest that would lead to the identification of solutions that went beyond the normal Environmental Health or transport solutions. The pilot recommended that the PlaceStandard was a good tool for starting conversations about air quality and is showed how thinking about place can result in a more holistic conversation. The review of the PlaceStandard, which is currently on going, will take on-board the recommendation in the report.



Photo courtesy of PAS

Article:

Why walking is one of the solutions



Rona Gibb
Manager
Paths for All

Paths for All manager, **Rona Gibb** outlines how the National Walking Strategy Action Plan can help to deliver many of the Scottish Government’s National Outcomes.

For many centuries everyone walked everywhere. As in most parts of the world, technology, urbanisation and increasingly sedentary work environments and lifestyles, alongside ever-increasing car use, has meant **opportunities for physical activity in our daily lives have been ‘planned out’**. Our places and spaces have been designed for cars not people and the predominance of 2.5 million registered cars in Scotland encourages inactivity, pollutes our air and supports disconnected communities!

‘...obesity, inactivity, depression, and loss of community has not ‘happened’ to us: rather we legislated, subsidised and planned it’¹

Physical inactivity is the second biggest cause of global mortality (joint with smoking, after high blood pressure). In Scotland, it contributes to over 2,500 premature deaths each year (that is around 7 a day) and costs the NHS around £94.1 million annually.²

We know that there are significant health and economic gains from getting inactive people to become active.³ The easiest way to achieve this is by increasing walking which is highlighted as the most likely way all adults can achieve the recommended levels of physical activity.

Walking should be as pleasant, safe and convenient as possible, for all ages and abilities. We want people to walk more daily – from their early years across their life course into active ageing.⁴

‘We have hard evidence that when you optimize a city for walkability, bikeability, public transportation, and cleaned-up parks, you can raise the physical activity level of a whole population by up to 30%.’⁵

Historically settlements were much denser, and workplaces were close to where people lived. We need to address decades

of creating dispersed developments and encourage people back into the centre of our towns and cities to live and work. Walking, as part of active travel, is about improving quality of life and quality of place. With over 50% of all driven journeys in Scotland being less than 5km, and 26% less than 2km, there is plenty of scope for achieving a significant shift to walking and cycling as the most sustainable forms of transport.

Making the links between policy areas is crucial – where we live and work and how we travel and take recreation every day are all part of being able to live happy, healthy lives. **The National Walking Strategy Action Plan** has recently been reviewed. It highlights that walking, if prioritised, can help to deliver many of the Scottish Government’s National Outcomes and a wide range of policy areas locally and nationally. Getting this right can also work to address inequalities in our society.

Scotland has a huge opportunity to better align its national strategy (and more importantly it’s delivery). The Planning and Climate Change Bills, the National Transport Strategy, the Strategic Transport Projects

Review and the Public Health Priorities for Scotland are all being reviewed or developed; unfortunately, they are on different timescales. Without co-ordination and if each is taken and developed in isolation, we do not benefit the population and

potentially end up with a strategic suite that is out of step with each other. By designing with men, women and children of all ages in mind we will achieve a much fairer society and have a better quality of life.

‘The places we live, work and play, the connections we have with others and the extent to which we feel able to influence the

decisions that affect us – all have a significant impact on our health and wellbeing.’⁶

Planning may have been part of the problem, but it is also a significant part of the solution! The planning process is at the core of the ‘system change’ that is needed to help reverse the policy trends that we currently have and make walking and walkable communities the priority it should be. ■

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“Scotland has a huge opportunity to better align its national strategy (and more importantly it’s delivery).”



Article: Designing a Scotland with Good Mental Wellbeing – The Impact of Planning and Design on Mental Health

Image courtesy of the Glasgow Centre for Population Health

Director of the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, Prof Carol Tannahill, discusses how the built environment impacts psychological wellbeing.

Alongside important national and global factors, the nature of the places in which we live influences our health and affects our chances of leading fulfilling lives. Accumulated research, summarised by the World Health Organization (Closing the Gap in a Generation, 2008) concludes that “Communities and neighbourhoods that ensure access to basic goods, that are socially cohesive, that are designed to promote good physical and psychological wellbeing, and that are protective of the natural environment, are essential for health equity.” Decisions about the built environment can have a profound and lasting impact on the social and economic conditions within neighbourhoods, including helping to build community resilience.

A core aspect of our work at the GCPH is to improve understanding of how the built environment and approaches to planning and regeneration can contribute to improving population health and wellbeing in Scotland. For more than 10 years, the GoWell programme has researched community experiences in 15 areas of Glasgow undergoing different levels of housing improvement and regeneration. Together with our colleagues at the University of Glasgow we have studied residents’ experiences and circumstances as their living environments changed.

Health outcomes will be affected by many factors in addition to the local built environment, including early years’ experiences, levels of income and education, and changes in population composition. Given this, our interest is in understanding how to maximise the contribution that can be made to population mental health by the built environment and wider neighbourhood

factors. Four messages come out strongly from our research.

1. The quality of the built environment matters for mental wellbeing. People who considered the attractiveness of their neighbourhood to be ‘very good’ rather than ‘poor’ were three times more likely to have high mental wellbeing (measured on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale). Similarly, people who reported that their home had a ‘very good’ external appearance or their neighbourhood had ‘very good’ aesthetic qualities were also more likely to have better mental wellbeing. Importantly, the mental wellbeing gains are evident when the attractiveness ratings become ‘very good’. ‘Good’ is not really good enough.
2. Loneliness is now recognised as having an impact on health equivalent to that of smoking 15 cigarettes a day. We found that environmental quality was again important: those rating their neighbourhood environment poorly were 40% more likely to report occasional or frequent loneliness than those rating it favourably. People who make good use of local amenities – a behaviour which is affected by neighbourhood safety, and the quality and accessibility of local amenities – are much less likely to feel lonely. Where there are amenities, people are more likely to walk, feel safe, and interact with others.
3. People who felt that they belonged in their community and had good social support, had higher levels of wellbeing. In the GoWell areas, residents thought the social environment influenced their health and

wellbeing at least as much (if not more) than the physical environment. As we know, the two are not entirely separate, as the built environment plays a central role in fostering and sustaining social contact and inclusion.

4. Finally, we have found that it matters how things are done. People should be at the centre of the decisions that affect them. When people are given choice, satisfaction with the outcome is generally higher. When people feel they can influence decisions, their mental wellbeing is generally higher. When attention is paid to building networks of support and engagement, health benefits flow.

As part of strengthening the public health system in Scotland, a set of priorities have been agreed for the country as a whole. These include creating a Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities; and a Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing. Our GoWell findings, adding to the established international body of evidence, demonstrate the central role that planning has to play in delivering on these priorities. ■



Prof Carol Tannahill
Director of the
Glasgow Centre for
Population Health

Article:

Breaking Down Topic Silos – The success of Health Impact Assessments in West Lothian.



Fiona McBrierty
MRTPI
Development
Planning and
Environment
Manager, West
Lothian Council

Fiona McBrierty, Development Planning and Environment Manager at West Lothian Council reflects upon the success of Health Impact Assessments in identifying both potential harms and opportunities which development may create for good health and wellbeing.

West Lothian Council has a long history of working in partnership with NHS Lothian to meet the health and social care needs of its administrative area. The council has reviewed and refreshed its previous Supplementary Planning Guidance on Health Impact Assessment (HIA) dating from 2008. The new guidance, prepared as Planning Guidance in support of the West Lothian Local Development Plan, was prepared jointly with

“to promote better health there is a need to break down topic silos and, specifically to promote cooperation between public health, planning and environmental sectors”

health practitioners in NHS Lothian working in partnership through the West Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership, particular thanks is given to Dr Margaret Douglas.

In Scotland the importance of place as an asset to create conditions for health is acknowledged but with no statement around the need for planning authorities and health organisations to collaborate to this end – until recently. Research now evidences the impact spatial planning policy and practice can have on shaping our physical environment to create places that enable lifestyle change. The World Health Organisation has concluded that to promote better health there is a need to break down topic silos and, specifically to promote cooperation between public health, planning and environmental sectors. There is now a growing use of HIA and organisations including the WHO have been promoting their use and have begun to develop good practice guides, drawing on the experience of Environmental Impact Assessment.

HIAs are designed to check whether a proposal might reinforce health inequalities, or inadvertently damage people’s health and well-being in its widest sense. They can be a standalone document or incorporated into EIA.

The main challenges to improving health in West Lothian are the ageing population, health inequalities, the continuing shift in the pattern of disease towards long term

conditions and growing numbers of people with multiple conditions and complex needs.

In submitting applications for planning permission in West Lothian, for example for major residential

developments or developments that require EIA, the HIA guidance requires applicants to hold a screening workshop with stakeholders (including members of the local community, council officers and other stakeholders as appropriate) with the aim of identifying key areas of health impact and to determine whether a full HIA is required. This workshop may be integrated with pre-application consultation. Preparation of HIA allows for all parties to come together to promote communities which can nurture good health and address health inequalities from an early stage in proposed developments.

The HIA guidance provides a checklist and guidance for preparing a HIA. It allows for a profile of the local community to be built up to help inform identification of impacts, characterise the relevant population groups who may bear these impacts, and provide background information to be applied to the local context. This aims to ensure that impacts on health and wellbeing are clearly

outlined and central to decision making. The HIA not only identifies potential harms arising from development which require mitigation but also identifies and supports positive aspects of a development that bring opportunities for good health and wellbeing. In preparing HIAs developers are required to consult with local GP’s and bodies with statutory responsibility for the delivery of health and social care services in the area on the capacity of local services to take on new patients.

Moving forward, the council has agreed ongoing partnership with healthcare professionals to provide public health advice on the HIAs and assessment of the HIA reports that are submitted to the council. Whilst more HIAs are being submitted it is too early to determine impact on West Lothian’s built environment as planning schemes either haven’t yet received planning permission or await implementation. However, HIA can only be seen as a positive in influencing the design of future development and strengthening the link between health and our communities.

https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2472/PG-Health-impact-assessment/pdf/PG-Health_Impact_Assessment_FINAL2.pdf ■

Image courtesy of West Lothian Council



Article:

Making the Link between Community and Spatial Planning to create outcomes for health.

Planning Officer Tom Ledingham highlights North Ayrshire Council's commitment to prioritizing health as an indicator of successful place.

Spatial and Community Planning in North Ayrshire LDP

This article focuses on the relationship between striving for a “Healthier” North Ayrshire and the formation of the Council’s 2nd LDP. North Ayrshire has aspirations for major investment in its economy, creating opportunities for growth which in turn can improve the outlook for many of its residents.

It was evident from very early stages of updating our Local Development Plan (LDP) that the update could look to bridge the perceived gap between spatial and community planning. This re-positioning of focus and having a shared overarching vision between the two functions has resulted in closer collaboration, realising what has always been common aims and goals to create places in which our communities can thrive. The Council’s Community Partnership drives the aspirations of the communities and is tasked to deliver the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). The four key goals of the LOIP include helping North Ayrshire become Healthier, Working, Thriving and Safer. Practitioners won’t need reminded that spatial planning and land use policy plays a role in achieving these goals, but officers wanted to set this as a focal point for decisions relating to development and placemaking.

A key component of any LDP process is the selection of sites. From the outset, officers sought to give weight to deliverable sites

that would have a direct, positive impact on communities. In addition, having the four goals help form the selection criteria meant that they were never far from the decision-making process.

Within the criteria, a list of “tests” to keep the focus of achieving the vision of a healthier North Ayrshire. These tests include,

- I. Will the proposal protect and enhance public accessibility to open space?
- II. Will the proposal protect and enhance green networks?
- III. Will the proposal link with the walking and cycling network?

These tests, along with other environmental, social and economic criteria maintained a rounded approach, aiming to achieve a suite of sites which contribute to the prevention of health implications to North

Ayrshire’s residents. Opportunities to improve human health outcomes have been highlighted throughout the spatial component of the Proposed Plan.

Officers used this criteria when

analysing the submissions requesting sites be added to the LDP for housing. Of course, the planning system balances numerous aims and goals, but the sites which were selected to become “additional” sites to the LDP were subject to further consultation.

This included using the Place Standard to further investigate opportunities to embed community involvement and ensure that health remains key to decision-making. Once views had been considered, the sites that had been chosen where enhancement of health opportunities were possible, a Human Health Impact Assessment is listed as required to be submitted with a Planning Application. This has perhaps been the most powerful tool in changing the way we will determine applications. Already, we started to gain some traction with some of the additional sites being progressed and Human Health Impact Assessments being part of pre-application discussion in the same manner as flood risk and landscape assessments.

The Council considers this as a great starting point, linking two related practices with common goals is sometimes not as straightforward as it could/should be. Now, human health is being discussed universally as an indicator of a successful place, from the resident involved in the first engagement exercise to the developer submitting their planning application. ■

“Opportunities to improve human health outcomes have been highlighted throughout the spatial component of the Proposed Plan.”

Thom Ledingham
MRTPI
Planning Officer
North Ayrshire
Council.



Article:

What value do we put on health? Understanding the impact of design on wellbeing.



Kirsty Macari
MRTPI
Lecturer in Urban
Planning at the
University of Dundee

Kirsty Macari, Lecture in Urban Planning at the University of Dundee, discusses the importance of better connecting planners and health professionals with the needs of the citizen.

Physical and social environments are critical elements in people's lives. The impact on wellbeing goes beyond the months it takes to design, build (or re-build) places. It is linked to challenges including fuel poverty, inequality, safety and behaviour. We invest time and money into designing places but when we get it wrong others have to invest heavily in reactive measures. Planning and urban design has a critical role to play in delivering good places, using prevention rather than cure.

Re-imagining the potential of the places we already have with both investment and dis-investment decision-making, is at the heart of realising the Sustainable Development Goals in Scotland. It considers how services, resources and assets in places are organised to address the specific issues for citizens and engages planners in a new way.

Buildings and spaces create an environment which allows human interaction and reaction however sometimes these systems can become separated. Engagement

“Planning and urban design has a critical role to play in delivering good places, using prevention rather than cure”

through design can offer a framework that brings different groups together around a shared agenda and active participation; where placemaking is a collaborative process which combines organisational (behavioural) and spatial (physical) actions over time, spanning master planning and economic development planning (Architecture & Design Scotland, 2011).

Architecture and Design Scotland supports Scottish Ministers' policies and objectives for the built and natural environment with the delivery of good architecture, successful places and efficient processes. It is well placed to support professionals and communities in creating healthy places across areas including:

- Place Standard - structuring conversations about place alongside Scottish Government and NHS Health Scotland.
- Design Advice for Housing - working at a range of scales, providing support to local authorities and developers to ensure new housing developments reflect policy ambitions set out in Creating Places.
- Town Centre Living - unlocking efficiencies and opportunities to leverage investment. This is evidenced by the recent launch of the Town Centre Living: A Caring Place Report (2019) by A&DS which identifies ten principles of a caring place and recommends “placing user needs at the heart of decision-making, service provision and investment in our places”.

Firsthand experience of the Place Standard to engage with school children allowed conversations about our physical and natural environment, climate change, addiction, obesity and how safe they felt in their neighbourhoods. Children see the challenges and solutions. We have a duty and responsibility to create places that these children want to grow up in.

We know what bad design looks and feels like;

places and spaces that don't feel safe, where children don't have space to play or when they do they're seen as a nuisance. Where the woman with early stage dementia doesn't want to go out because she can't always find her way home. Every home where there's no privacy and you feel vulnerable to whoever walks past, every street with dark unobserved paths that mean you take the car for the five minute journey – someone designed it, someone decided to spend money building it. Design was paid for, even if we didn't get what we expected from it. How can that be value for money? What value do we put on health?

An approach which improves wellbeing and better connects planners and health professionals with the needs of citizens is needed now. Our demographic future is now! We need places where we can care and be cared for in environments that have people and their well-being at their heart. ■

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Image courtesy of Richard Carmen

Update: Scottish Government News

Planning Bill Progress

The Planning (Scotland) Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 20 June 2019. A version of the Bill as passed, along with the official reports of proceedings in the Parliament, can be found at: <https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/106768.aspx>

Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning #SAQP2019

This year we received just over 50 applications in the five categories of Partnership, People, Place, Plans and Process. The judges met early in June to shortlist those which will be invited to attend an interview in September. Those shortlisted will also be entered into the People's Choice Award 2019. Look out for #SAQP2019 on twitter for details of the successful applicants.

Scotland's EIA Conference

The EIA conference, which was held on 23 May 2019 in Edinburgh, brought together 120 delegates from various parts of the EIA community. In its third year, the annual conference, which is sponsored by consultants and co-delivered by the Scottish Government supported by EIA experts and speakers drawn from Government, consultancy, Local Authorities and the Consultation bodies, provides an opportunity to come along and network, hear about good Scottish EIA practice and participate in practical workshops. The 2019 conference included topics, such as digital EIA, establishing future baselines, collaborative scoping, a discussion on EIA's potential role in place-making and included a session on EIA case law.

The 2019 conference, which was well attended, brought together those from the private, public and academic sector in a single training event, that focussed on the strengths, weakness, opportunities and challenges for EIA practice. This collaborative approach, has been embraced by all those involved in a bid to break down barriers and to support the Scottish Government's aim of more efficient and effective EIA. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/making-places-initiative-2018-2019-list-of-successful-projects>

Research Update

Research which assessed housing land audits for consistency and compliance, and their potential for standardisation and their role in development plan delivery has been published. It can be viewed at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/research-project-housing-land-audits-january-2019/>. The report from a study collating data on Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland has been published. It can be viewed at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/gypsy-traveller-sites-scotland>.

As previously highlighted, a number of other research projects are still being progressed, including:

- The Adoption of Scottish Planning Policy in Local Development Plans
- Rural Planning Policy to 2050
- Scaling-up Place Standard
- Permitted Development Rights
- Development of Children's and Young

Details of completed projects can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/planning-architecture/latest>



Image courtesy of Scottish Government - Scottish Government EIA Conference

Update:

RTPI Scotland Update



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Meeting with Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work

In May RTPI Scotland Convenor Julia Frost, Immediate Past Convenor Fraser Carlin and Director Craig McLaren met with Derek Mackay MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work. The meeting was arranged to discuss how to support investment in planning services; the need to either review the need for, or fund the implementation of, the 91 new duties introduced to the Planning Bill stage 2; how Scottish Government can support a resilient planning workforce; and how to support future infrastructure provision in the context of the Planning Bill.

Scottish government funding boosts planning bursary scheme

The RTPI's flagship postgraduate student bursary scheme has received a major financial boost from the Scottish Government. Kevin Stewart, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, announced that the Scottish Government would be funding the scheme for the next three years. He said "In recognition of all the good work that you are doing and to confirm my belief in young planners, it brings me great pleasure to announce that the Government will be funding the RTPI's Future Planners programme in Scotland. This will mean that up to three bursaries - at each of Dundee, Glasgow and Heriot Watt Universities - will be available for students looking to undertake an RTPI-accredited master's programme for the next three years." The RTPI Future Planners bursary scheme has run since 2015-16. It targets undergraduate students from any discipline such as law, politics, geography or architecture to study RTPI fully accredited postgraduate planning degrees. The current scheme offers each student a bursary of £2,000 co-funded by the RTPI and participating accredited planning schools in England, thanks to a three-year grant from the UK government and now Scotland. More than 160 students across the UK have benefited from the scheme so far.

Engagement

RTPI Scotland has met with, attended or presented at the following:

- Scottish Government Joint Housing Policy and Delivery Group
- Scottish Government Digital Planning team
- Audit Scotland and Improvement Service roundtable on planning resourcing
- DPEA Stakeholder Group
- HOPS Performance and Practice subcommittee
- Partners in Planning
- Zero Waste Scotland, Urban Heat Networks event
- Strategic Infrastructure research update UWE
- HOPS Executive Committee
- Chair, Architecture + Design Scotland
- Vacant and Derelict Land Taskforce
- National Walking Strategy Delivery Forum
- Our Place in Time Built Heritage Investment Plan Working Group
- Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood Judging Panel
- Scottish Land and Estates
- Law Society of Scotland
- Homes for Scotland
- The Future of Shopping Centres in Scotland's Towns roundtable
- Scottish Alliance for People and Places
- Holyrood Policy conference on Climate Change in Scotland
- Scottish Land Commission
- Graham Simpson MSP
- Andy Wightman MSP
- Scottish Liberal Democrats
- CaCHE re planning bill expert group
- Scotland's Towns Partnership

COMMUNICATIONS

Social Media

The [@RTPIScotland](#) Twitter account now has 3910 followers and the [@ConvenorRTPI](#) account has 1302 followers.

Media

The following news release have been published:

- 10 May - Post-Brexit environmental standards must be maintained, says RTPI Scotland

- 03 May - RTPI urges new approach to Scottish infrastructure funding
- 24 April - Outstanding contribution of planners celebrated at RTPI Awards
- 23 April - MSPs urged to drop Planning Bill's extra duties
- 20 March - Scottish government funding boosts planning bursary scheme

See www.rtpi.org.uk

AWARDS

Congratulations go to the Scottish projects and people who were recognised at the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence:

- Winner in Excellence in Planning for Health and Wellbeing - Cuningar Loop Urban Woodland Park submitted by South Lanarkshire Council
- Winner of the Excellence in Planning for the Natural Environment category - Stirling Enhanced Landscape Mitigation Project submitted by Ironside Farrar Ltd and Scottish Power Energy Networks
- Winner of the Excellence in Planning for Homes (Large Schemes) - Dargavel Village submitted by Renfrewshire Council
- Commended in Young Planner of the Year - Ailsa Anderson from Aberdeenshire Council
- Commended in Excellence in Plan Making Practice - East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018 by East Lothian Council Planning Service/Energy Networks
- Excellence in Planning for Homes (Large Schemes) - Dargavel Village submitted by Renfrewshire Council
- Local Authority Planning Team of the Year - Glasgow City Council and North Ayrshire Council
- Young Planner of the Year - Ailsa Anderson from Aberdeenshire Council

DEATHS

The institute regrets to announce the death of Mr Stephen Beebe MRTPI from Broxburn.

Update:

RTPI Update Chief Planning Officers

At the Planning Convention this month on the 19th of June, RTPI have published its second phase of research on Chief Planning Officers. This report builds on phase 1 of the RTPI research, which found that only 23% of the 212 local authorities investigated in the UK and Ireland had a head of planning that reported directly to the Chief Executive. For this work we conducted a series of in depth interviews with a range of current and past local government and senior management staff alongside a series of case studies highlighting the positive influence planning can have when included in the corporate decision making in local authorities. This was followed by a series of recommendations.

Status

In accordance with our first research report, participants agreed that the corporate presence of planning within local authorities has weakened during recent decades. But why does this matter? And why has RTPI Scotland been advocating for the Chief Planning Officer amendment in the Planning (Scotland) Bill?

With the Place Principle in Scotland having gained significant traction in recent months, including recent discussions in parliament, the need for cross departmental working to unlock place based interventions and integrate public service delivery is becoming a clear priority for Scottish Government. A recurring theme picked up by this work was that if provided a place at the top table, planners are adept at working across departments to articulate the value and ensure delivery of quality place-making. This work highlighted the major potential cost savings for local authorities from understanding the spatial implications of decisions made in other departments, and through upstream preventative interventions associated with place-making. A key recommendation from the report has subsequently been put forward for nations to follow Scotland's example and provide new legislation to require Chief Planning Officers as a statutory function within local authorities.

Influence

Planners play an important role in providing impartial, professional advice to elected members helping inform and guide local politicians to develop long-term strategic visions and corporates strategies. This was highlighted by the innovative work undertaken by Plymouth Council on the Plymouth Plan, winner of the RTPI Award for Planning Excellence for Plan Making in 2015. The idea for the Plan was to consolidate over 100 plans and internal strategies across the authority into one interactive web-based corporate plan, owned by the City Council and its partners. The planning department at Plymouth took the lead for the entire process, including embedding the recently adopted Local Plan, to ensure that all decision making across the local authority is taken within a planning context.

Skills

Finally the report looks at leadership skills and the essential skills needed for the next generation of planning leaders. With the reduced presence of planning in local authorities and the scaling back of training budgets, concerns were expressed by participants that the career growth of talented individuals are being stifled, making the move to the private sector much more attractive. Therefore a series of recommendations have been made to improve mid-career and management training opportunities for planners and to investigate rolling out the current RTPI Chief Planning Officers mentoring scheme for young planners to include mid-career shadowing and development. The importance of skills and knowledge exchange between Chief Planning Officers and the need for more formalised networks across the country was discussed highlighting the fantastic success seen in the establishment and work undertaken by Heads of Planning Scotland.

With the first phase of the research resonating strongly with our membership and the wider built environment profession, it is hoped that this report will move the conversation on to action - so we can ensure that planners voices are once again heard at the very top table of decision making in local authorities.



Robbie Calvert
Acting Policy and
Practice Officer
RTPI Scotland

Update: Scottish Young Planners Network

Hello readers! I am really excited to be taking on the role of Chair this year – and look forward to continuing the hard work of those before me! I am also delighted to announce that Rhiannon Moylan has been nominated as Vice Chair and we also welcome some new members to the Steering Group. We look forward to continuing our efforts to promote the interests of young planners throughout Scotland.

In March 2019 we held our annual Scottish Young Planners Conference in Dundee, which focused on ‘Delivering great places now and for the future.’ We had over 120 delegates in attendance which speaks volumes on the enthusiasm amongst young planners in Scotland. On behalf of the SYPN I would like to offer our thanks to all who were involved; the speakers who delivered interesting and thought-provoking presentations, our sponsors, and those who helped to organise. It

is only with your help that we can continue to deliver such a successful event each year!

Following on from the conference we have spent some time reviewing our programme for the year ahead and we have some exciting events in the pipeline – keep an eye out for these over the forthcoming months! In addition we will be delivering presentations to Scottish planning schools and hosting our annual APC workshops later this year.

You will have seen from previous updates that the SYPN has been developing our bid to host the national RTPI Young Planners Conference here in Scotland – please do keep your fingers crossed for us as we await the results!

Finally keep an eye out for our summer socials, which will soon be advertised via the SYPN mailing list. We look forward to seeing you there!



Lisa Proudfoot
MRTPI
SYPN Chair

Update: Partners In Planning

We all know that the ongoing delivery of our planning system is down to all those working within the system. Sitting beside the legislative change we have been tracking through Parliament are the people we expect to deliver the change. Be they at the beginning of their planning education or several decades into their career it is crucial they have access to a fit for purpose planning education and then lifelong learning. Access to high quality skills and knowledge that will enable our capacity to deliver quality places that promote wellbeing, sustainable communities and inclusive growth.

The Partners in Planning forum pulls together planning educators, employers, professional institutes and other core stakeholders. We are delighted to have recently included COSLA and Homes for Scotland on the forum. Such a partnership enables a whole system approach to support those working in planning in Scotland.

Partners In Planning’s highest priority was to establish a single co-ordination point to share information, intelligence, good practice, news, events and training opportunities on planning and place-making. The Partners in Planning web site, launched last year, provides those working with the Planning System one access point to skills, knowledge and behavioural change. The sites direct links to relevant content on external websites removes the need to search through many levels of many different sites. This site is now expanding as both partners and others submit fresh content that informs skills.

Moving forward, we will collaborate on the ongoing skills and knowledge needs of those expected to deliver the Planning System. We will promote and support opportunities for learning when at our desks and the importance of enabling time away from our desks as well. We will continue a constructive dialogue on approaches to delivering the aspirations of the Planning Review and beyond.



Irene Beautyman
MRTPI
Planning for Place
Programme Manager,
The Improvement
Service

[@pip_scotland](https://www.partnersinplanning.scot)

Update:

Policy Update



RTPI 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 Robbie Calvert, RTPI Scotland's Acting Planning Policy and Practice Officer, on Robbie.calvert@rtpi.org.uk if you would like contribute to our responses to national consultations.

PLANNING BILL UPDATE

After being passed by Parliament we now have a new Planning (Scotland) Act. RTPI Scotland welcomes a number of new provisions including:

- the introduction of statutory Chief Planning Officers, an issue RTPI Scotland has campaigned for since the outset of the bill
- the introduction of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs)
- the introduction for provisions for Local Place Plans (LPPs), to allow communities to develop ideas on what they want for their own neighbourhood
- the introduction of provisions for a Planning Performance Improvement Coordinator

However there are still concerns that many additional duties have been placed on Scottish Government and local authority planning departments which are still uncostered and unfunded. RTPI Scotland will continue to highlight the need to bring additional resourcing into the planning system.

Many details remain to be clarified in taking forward secondary legislation and regulations, which RTPI will work closely with Scottish Government and stakeholders to help shape and influence.

See the Planning (Scotland) Bill webpage on the Scottish Parliament website for more details - <https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/106768.aspx>

ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND GOVERNANCE

In response Scottish Governments consultation on environmental principles and governance post-Brexit, RTPI Scotland has called for the four UK governments to take a consistent approach to environmental standards. RTPI Scotland has further encouraged Scottish Government to include the standards within the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework to ensure that they are embedded in national strategies including Scottish Planning Policy and the National Planning Framework. To maintain compliance and enforce standards, RTPI Scotland have advocated for a watchdog with strong sanction powers including the ability to levy fines.

OTHER CONSULTATION RESPONSES

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

- response to Scottish Governments consultation on environmental principles and governance
- written evidence to Infrastructure Commission for Scotland
- response to Crown Estate Scotland Rural Assets Strategy consultation
- research report - Resourcing the Planning System: Key Trends and Findings 2019
- written evidence to Scottish Government and Scotland's SDG network - Scotland's progress towards the UN SDGs
- response to Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024

See the RTPI Scotland Policy Publications webpage for more details - <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/the-rtpi-near-you/rtpi-scotland/policy-and-research/policy-publications/>

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Julia chairs the Scottish Executive Committee and the Scottish Forum for Planning. She also represents Scotland at the RTPI General Assembly

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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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**Robbie Calvert
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Jennie coordinates RTPI Scotland communications, including bulletins with information about chapter and national events. She is responsible for keeping the RTPI Scotland's website up to date, and assists with the delivery of CPD events.

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**Claire Pollock
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Claire has joined RTPI Scotland to help with our work influencing the Planning Bill

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The opinions stated are the contributors' own unless otherwise stated. The RTPI is not responsible for statements made or views expressed in this journal.

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...contributing to the renaissance in
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The logo for RTPI Training features a stylized white cube icon above the text "RTPI Training" and "Royal Town Planning Institute" in a smaller font.

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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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