

RTPI Scottish Young Planners Network

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Past, Present and Future – Moving Forward

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Introduction

NPF4 has introduced a period of transition

Is there anything to learn from the past and present when moving forward?

In nearly 50 years of working in planning, what guidance can I pass on?

Some thoughts on managing change to take forward in your careers.

Our Role in the Planning System

We plan for land use change

by predicting and directing future land requirements

We promote place making

by encouraging and controlling future development

We have unique expertise in the development process

Each determination reaches a judgement on planning balance

Our role is unchanged

The planning system is still the same

Market driven development still needs to be managed

It may be more sustainable but still requires planning intervention

Apply the planning legislation

Our planning law is only being 'tweaked' – as in the last 50 years

BUT IN TRANSITION (as now with NPF4)

Need to understand the interpretation to place on new elements

Planning is dynamic learning experience

We seek evidence about requirements and impacts to deliver our judgement about planning balance

We still need to measure impact of new issues – **evidence**

We still need to interpret the meaning of these impacts – **significance of evidence**

And then

Exercise judgement about planning balance from policy assessment

Development plans – our book of judgement

Evolution of Development Plans

Past

National

National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)
Planning Advice Notes

Strategic

Structure Plans (plus call-in powers)

Area Plans

Local

Local Plans (multiple within LA)

Subject Plans eg Minerals

Lots of plans and all very
different

Present

National Planning Frameworks
Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)
Planning Advice Notes

Strategic Development Plans (SDP)

Local Development Plans (LDP)

Superseded

More integrated plans

Future of Development Plans

Future

National

National Planning Framework 4
common LDP policy - **centralised but consistent?**
KC opinions & JRs to guide interpretation
Planning Advice Notes – **need for update for NPF4?**

Strategic

Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS)
Future influence on LDPs or NPF?

Local

Local Development Plans (LDP – new style)
Gatecheck evidence and assessment – helpful?
Future content determined by Examination?

Local Place Plans (LPP)
Managing the aspirations?

Technology and evidence

Past

Pen, paper and calculator
Mapping
Research in books

'unreliable' without interrogation
through Examination

Present

Computers - modelling
GIS Software
Data sets

Opportunity to discuss and agree

Technology – Future of Evidence

Smart and Collaborative Working on evidence

Seek common understanding on future requirements and impacts

Data sets used as mutually agreed evidence – avoid disputes

Improve our communication of data?

Thoughts on future of Planning

All about **rigour** in assessing evidence

All about being **objective** in reaching a judgement

All about being **consistent** in exercising judgements

As a profession, we deliver **evidenced based judgements**

then

Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems will not threaten our future

Any Questions?