Planning Policy and Practice

Module Descriptor

Module Code:	PLN7PPP
Version:	V2.00
Status:	Final
Date:	16/07/2025

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Planning Policy and Practice

Module Leader: Laird Ryan

Module Mode: Supported online learning

Semester: Spring (UK)

Level: 7

Credits: 20

Learning Hours: 200

Contact & Study Hours

Directed Study Time: 60 hrs (30%)

Self-directed Study Time: 70 hrs (35%)

Assessment Study Time: 70 hrs (35%)

Assessment Type

Coursework: 100%

Module Summary

This module introduces students to the real-world dynamics of the planning process in England, through a critical review of the prescribed stages of plan-making and decision-taking at a full range of strategic levels and spatial contexts. A central focus here will be the role of Statutory Development Plans (SDPs), and their integral components, Local and Neighbourhood Plans. Consideration will be given to how a full range of cross-sector stakeholders come to define an agreed spatial vision for their areas and determine individual development proposals in relation to that vision, as well as the practical and ethical qualities required of the different players in the planning process. Students will be encouraged to recognise conflicts that arise in the delivery of sustainable development and how effective leadership can help to ameliorate the process.

Taken on which Programmes

MSc Urban Planning (C)

Core (C)

Module Aims

This module aims to aims to enable students to:

- Progress a knowledge and critical understanding of how the regulatory frameworks of the planning system operate in practice across a range of strategic levels and geographic locations;

- Demonstrate a detailed and critical knowledge of current UK policymaking and planning legislation and how it works in practice within the wider national, international, institutional, and legal frameworks;

- Foster a recognition of, and critically analyse, the main policy responses to current and emerging planning issues, in order to present appropriate, place-specific solutions; and

- Explore how concepts of effective leadership and management of organisations, people, and projects are applied to the planning system, and evaluate which approaches are most appropriate in a range of different contexts.

Module Learning Outcomes

LO1. Demonstrate critical comprehension of the principles and processes involved in spatial planning policy and the way it can be used to create a vision to deliver sustainable development, infrastructure provision, regeneration, urban design and placemaking for communities.

LO2. Identify and appraise the wide-ranging issues, interrelationships and professional competencies in planning that promote sustainable development.

LO3. Appraise the statutory and extra-statutory practices and procedures for determining planning applications, including stakeholder consultations, enforcement and appeals, and demonstrate an understanding of the related, necessary professionalism and ethical approaches.

LO4.   Critically analyse the spatial planning factors that influence management, strategic decision-making and leadership within the context for delivering sustainable development by and for sustainable communities.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- **Changes to Planning Policy**

Changes to Planning Policy in England and the devolved nations in the UK.

- **Building and Delivering New Towns**

Building and Delivering New Towns and New Communities to meet affordable housing needs in the context of strategic planning.

- **Planning Law**

Including procedures for determining planning applications, permitted development, planning appeals, planning enforcement and the role of the Planning Inspectorate.

- **Stakeholder engagement and management in the planning process**

Including statutory requirements for stakeholder engagement and building consensus for development.

- **Strategic Planning**

Strategic planning and Local Government reorganisation in England.

This content will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the legal, moral and financial changes in professional standards and practice.

Overview of Summative Assessment

Module learning outcomes	Assessment	Word count or equivalent	Weighting
LO1, LO2	**Assessment 1** Coursework (e.g. essay)	2,000	40%

LO3, LO4	**Assessment 2** Coursework (e.g. briefing paper/ presentation)	3,000	60%

Module Pass Mark (each element is to be passed separately): 50%

Key Module Learning Resources

Core Sources and Texts

The core reading resources within each module will be provided via the specific Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) module pages and within the e-Library. Additional reference material and supplementary resources to support your studies are available through the University of the Built Environment e-Library.

Module tools

Students will have access to study materials, dedicated academic support, student forums, and learning activities via an online learning platform (VLE).

The module page on the VLE is broken down into structured study weeks to help students plan their time, with each week containing a mixture of reading, case studies, videos/recordings and interactive activities to go through. Online webinars/seminars led by the Module Leader can be attended in real time and provide opportunities to consolidate knowledge, ask questions, discuss topics and work through learning activities together. These sessions are recorded to support students who cannot attend and to enable students to recap the session and work through it at their own pace. Module forums on the VLE provide further opportunities to discuss topics with other students, complete collaborative work and get extra help from the module team.

Professional online resources

The e-Library provides access to trusted, quality online resources, selected by subject specialists, to support students' study. This includes journals, industry publications, magazines, academic books and a dissertation/work-based library. For a list of the key industry specific and education resources available please visit [the VLE e-Library](#).

Other relevant resources

Access is also provided to further information sources that include the British Library and Open University UK catalogues, as well as providing a monthly current awareness service entitled, **_Knowledge Foundations_** - a compendium of news, research and resources relating to the educational sector and the Built Environment.

The module resource list is available on the module VLE page and is updated regularly to ensure materials are relevant and current.