

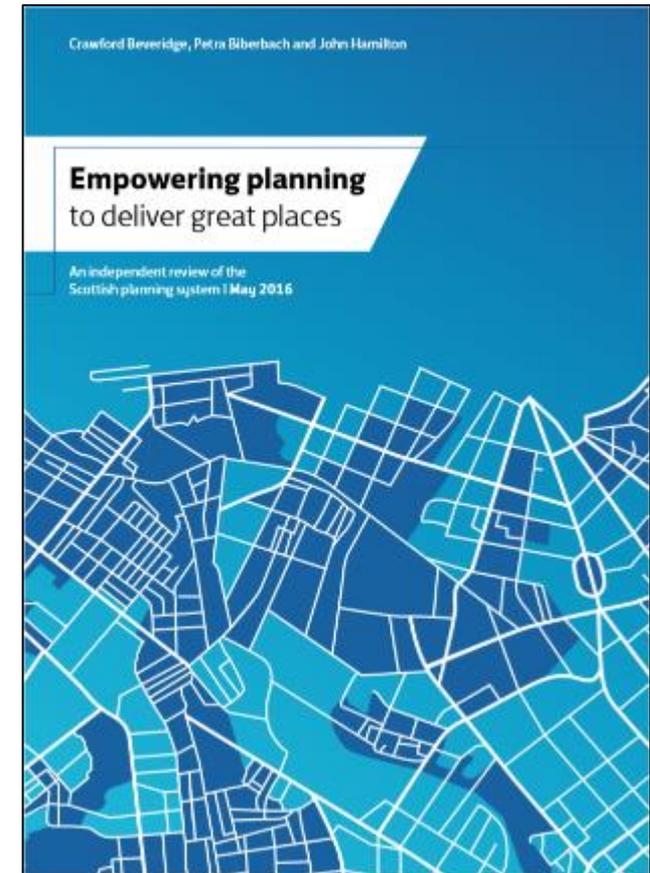
# Planning Performance & Fees

Chris Sinclair



# Planning Performance

- Timescales remain critical
- Alternative mechanisms to support improvement should be found
- Removal of the penalty clause
- Fuller study of combined consents
- Planning fees for major applications should be increased substantially
- Scope for further discretionary charging should be considered further



# Places, People and Planning - Analysis

## **Proposal 17: Investing in a better service**

- Paying a higher or additional fee could lead to a multi-tier system with larger fees capturing time and attention.
- More detail on discretionary charging – what the scale might be and what additional services could be charged for.
- Clear performance indicators do not accompany the suggested increase to fees
- Little support expressed to extend charging for agencies.

# Places, People and Planning - Analysis

## **Proposal 18: A new approach to improving performance**

- General support on monitoring the quality of decisions and outcomes as a measure of performance, as well as time.
- Support for the 360-feedback proposal, if there is implementation of lessons learnt through this.
- General agreement that planning performance needs to move beyond quantitative targets to focus more on outcomes
- Concerns about the time and resource that might be required to monitor performance and outcomes.

# Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

## Fees for planning applications etc.

“The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision for the payment of a charge or fee to a planning authority...” / “...to the Scottish Ministers...”

- All detail to come in regulations
- Scope for:
  - discretionary charging (e.g. pre-application discussions)
  - waiving or reducing fees
  - surcharge for retrospective applications
  - Higher fee for enhanced project management
  - Ability for Scottish Ministers to charge for carrying out their planning functions.
    - charging for appeals
    - ePlanning/Digital

# Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

## Performance

**“The performance of the planning system is vital. We are reforming planning so that it better serves us all. Everyone deserves to receive a good service...even people who do not engage in the service but who benefit from what planning does for our communities”** *Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning*

- **Annual report** assessing performance of planning authority functions:
  - Quantitative and qualitative
  - Outcomes
- **National Planning Improvement Coordinator**
  - Monitor the performance of planning authorities
  - Provide advice to planning authorities **and to such other persons as the coordinator considers appropriate**...to improve the performance of their functions

# Transforming Planning in Practice: post-Bill programme

## Work packages

- **Fees:** starting now; complete Q2 2020
- **Performance:** starting now; complete Q4 2020

## Action to Date

- A revised maximum fee of £125,000 – came into effect June 2017
- We asked HOPS to undertake research to establish the impact of fee increase – over £4m additional income across Scotland in first 12 months.
- HOPS have also refreshed the costing research undertaken in 2013-14.
- Fee for Energy Consent applications to be increase with voluntary contribution made to authorities increasing to 50%.
- Workshops with over 50 stakeholders to help inform the consultation on Planning Performance and Fees

# Planning Performance and Fees Consultation

## Performance

- How and what outcomes from planning should be measured
- Key Indicators to be measured

## Planning Improvement Co-ordinator

- What their role should be?
- How they should operate?

## Fees

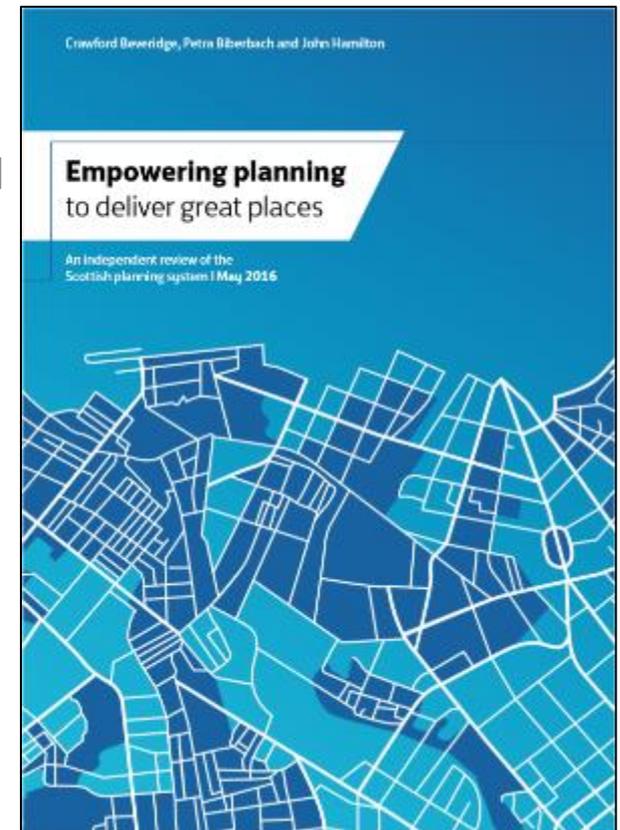
- Revised Planning Fee Structure
- Discretionary Charging
- Waving and Reducing Fees
- Enhanced Project Management
- Scottish Government Charging

## Next Steps

- Drafting of consultation paper underway
- Aiming to Publish before Christmas
- 2 month consultation period
- New fee regulations to come into affect by end June 2020

# Leadership and Skills

- Planning services should aspire to become leaders and innovators within the context of public service reform and the Scottish Government and key agencies should lead by example
- Skills development is required in a number of priority areas.
- Local authorities should pursue the establishment of shared services.
- A planning graduate intern programme should be established.



# Places, People and Planning - Analysis

## Proposal 16 - Developing skills to deliver outcomes

- planning is well positioned to be visionary and deliver better places.
- Putting the planning department on a level with other Executive departments will give planning a renewed mandate
- Developing leadership is another key theme both individuals and wider leadership across the planning profession.
- Greater opportunity for multi-disciplinary working is widely supported.

# Leadership and Skills

## Leadership

RTPI – Chief Planning Officers

## Skills

- Partners in Planning
- IS Survey Skills and Elected Member Training
- HOPS Survey – Skills and Shared Services
- RTPI – Graduate Intern Programme

# Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

## Member Training

**“A member of a planning authority who has not fulfilled the specified training requirements is prohibited from exercising any of the authority’s specified functions...or being involved...as a member of a committee...”**

### Detail to come in regulations

- Limited to statutory planning functions
- May require completion of training course
- May require training content and provider be accredited

# Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

## Chief Planning Officers

“The appointment of Chief Planning Officers in all authorities will support improved performance and enhance the ability of planning to support outcomes across the authority. We propose to issue guidance on the role of Chief Planning Officers by Q4 2020; we will consider with representatives of the planning profession and COSLA whether guidance on their qualifications and experience is needed”.

## Restrictions

- A planning authority may not appoint a person as their chief planning officer unless satisfied that the person has appropriate qualifications and experience for the role.
- In deciding what constitutes appropriate qualifications and experience for the role of chief planning officer, a planning authority must have regard to any guidance on the matter issued by the Scottish Ministers.

# Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

## National planning improvement coordinator

“The role of the co-ordinator is to monitor planning authorities’ performance of their functions, and provide advice to planning authorities and others on improving their performance. “

# Transforming Planning in Practice: post-Bill programme

## Work packages

- **Chief planning officer:** starting now; complete Q4 2020
- Planning improvement coordinator – in post by mid 2020
- **Member training:** starting Q1 2021; complete Q1 2022

# Today's Task

## Chief Planning Officer -

- How do you think this role should operate in practice?

## Planning Improvement Co-ordinator

- How do you think this role should operate in practice?
- How can the coordinator best support improvement within the sector?

# Today's Task

**Staff resourcing – increasing experience and retention of skilled people within the sector**

- How do we attract and retain more people into planning practice?
- What are the key challenges and opportunities?

**Elected Member Training**

- Views on what should be included as part of the mandatory training?

THANK YOU

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