

Update on RTPI research into Measuring Planning Outcomes September 2020

In 2018 the Scottish Government commissioned Yellow Book Ltd to undertake research to identify how place-based outcomes from planning could be monitored to demonstrate the value added during the planning process and how the final development has resulted in an improved place. The research found that there was “strong support for a move towards a more holistic performance management system”. The research report presented a draft performance management framework for the Scottish planning system. The framework summarises performance management activities and measures at each stage, and distinguishes between ongoing monitoring activity and post hoc evaluation. However, the report did not identify the specific outcomes which we should be looking to monitor and measure.

We have contributed £30,000 to a research study which has been commissioned by the RTPI: A consortium led by Kevin Murray Associates to build on the research undertaken by Yellow Book.

The research objectives are to:

- Agree sets of outcome measures for planning policy and development management in each nation.
- Develop a methodology for measuring these outcomes including identifying which existing data can be used, which new data should be collected, and ways to make outcomes commensurable.
- Pilot this approach at local and national scales (and regional scale if appropriate).
- Propose how social, economic and environmental outcomes could be added to local authority monitoring processes without adding undue burden to officers.
- Propose how national targets could promote these outcomes.

The research will be particularly valuable in the development of the proposed content of the statutory annual performance reports which authorities will be required to prepare, which was introduced by the Planning Act 2019.