Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD003658	**Version:** 1 **Date Amended:** 22/Nov/2013

1. Module Title
Plan Making and Policy

2a. Module Leader
Negar Ahmadpoor

2b. School
School of Engineering and the Built Environment

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
7

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	None		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

The module is designed to introduce students to core aspects of planning activity and assist in developing a critical and practical understanding of the contextual and conceptual framework within which spatial planning operates in urban and rural contexts. The purpose and nature of spatial planning is debated, including its international origins in the European Community, contemporary changes, and its application across and within the UK, including the devolved nations. The process of plan making is explored in relation to concepts of sustainability, the wider public policy arena, and the legal and procedural framework. An examination is made of the evolution of formal planning mechanisms including national planning guidance, development plans and related documents, and the contribution they make to planning policy and decision making at national, sub-national and local levels. Case studies and local practitioners will be used wherever possible to illuminate the processes, sectors, agencies and debates involved in planning practice, and students will be encouraged to reflect upon planning's role in co-ordinating and mediating the spatial impacts of sectoral strategies, for example, housing, transport and economic development. The module will be relevant for students interested in policy making at any scale, whether in the public or private sector, and international comparisons are made.

6b. Outline Content

- Evolution of spatial planning. The changing governance and political framework, socio-economic and environmental drivers of change
- Purpose and content of development plans and the bodies responsible for their preparation
- Central government policy, including the National Planning Policy Framework, and the spatial planning frameworks of the devolved nations
- Sustainability, climate change and planning
- Localism and planning
- Process of preparation of formal plans at a variety of spatial levels: research and evidence gathering, strategic planning and scenario testing, decision making models (democratic/political/professional etc), consultation, monitoring and review of plan
- Critical evaluation of policies
- The planners' role – professionalism and skills for planning practice
- Horizontal and vertical linkages between spatial levels and across sectors eg housing, transport, regeneration strategies, the duty to cooperate
- Evaluating the impact of strategies, plans and policies on the environment and society
- Planning in international contexts

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the processes and procedures involved in the preparation of formal plans.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate understanding of the interconnectedness between formal plans, planning guidance and policy statements, and the implementation and impact of plans.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Debate elements of this understanding with peers, and through so doing apply this understanding to practice.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop the skills of collaboration and mediation in the preparation of formal plans.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	12	1,2,4	1 hour per week over 1 trimester
Other teacher managed learning	24	1,2,4	2 hours per week linked workshops and seminars
Student managed learning	114	1,2,3	9.5 hours per week over 1 trimester.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1 2 3 4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)

Coursework: 3000 words. May incorporate the patchwork approach or linked constituents.

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]