

# The Role of Planning in Making Levelling Up a Reality



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The cover features a photograph of a historic building with a prominent clock tower and a statue on top. The image is overlaid with a large, semi-transparent blue circle. The title 'Ambitions for the North' is written in white and yellow text within this circle. Below the title, there is a subtitle and publication information in white text.

# Ambitions for the North

A spatial framework for people  
and places in the North of England

RTPI Research Paper  
May 2019

# Themes of 'Levelling Up'

Addressing Regional Inequalities

Health and Quality of Life

Productivity

Access to Jobs and Amenities

*Ambitions for the North* - RTPI 2019

Outlines a series of ambitions in a similar vein to Levelling Up

# The Role of Planning

# Transportation and Travel

- ▶ **Equal Access to Opportunities and Amenities**
  - ▶ Support sustainable mobility in car-dependent locations
- ▶ **Decarbonisation of Transport**
  - ▶ Different strategies are needed for different place typologies
    - ▶ *Net Zero Transport RTPI 2021*
  - ▶ Need to ensure urban areas aren't prioritised over rural counterparts
    - ▶ *Transport for the North Draft Decarbonisation Strategy 2021*

# Health and Wellbeing

## ▶ Quality of Place


- ▶ Improve the quality of existing homes and neighbourhoods
  - ▶ Neighbourhood level planning
- ▶ Delivery high quality and affordable housing in the right locations

## ▶ Role of Natural Capital

- ▶ Improving access to green spaces
  - ▶ Wellness benefits and long-term public health impacts
  - ▶ RTPI, 2020: *Invest and Prosper*
- ▶ Embed 'climate justice' in plan-making
  - ▶ RTPI, 2020: *Five Reasons for Climate Justice in Spatial Planning*

# Economic Potential

- ▶ **High Streets**
  - ▶ Significant challenges stemming from Covid-19
  - ▶ Potential for regeneration
- ▶ **Mixed Use and Accessible Local Services**
  - ▶ RTPI: *Location of Development*
- ▶ **Meet Infrastructure Demands for Job Growth and Housing Markets**
  - ▶ RTPI, 2016: *Planning and Tech*
  - ▶ Planning as an Attractor and a Distributor

The background features a dark blue, almost black, trapezoidal shape on the left side that tapers towards the right. On the right side, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent light blue and medium blue geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, creating a layered, abstract effect. A thin white line runs diagonally from the top right towards the bottom left, passing through the overlapping shapes.

Opportunities

# Opportunities

## ▶ Green Growth Boards

- ▶ Cross Local Authority boundaries and bring together key stakeholders
- ▶ “Deliver joined-up strategies for climate action, infrastructure, housing, health and nature recovery”

## ▶ Chief Planning Officers

- ▶ Greater role for planning in Local Authority decision making
- ▶ RTPI 2018, 2019: *Chief Planning Officers*

## ▶ Measuring Outcomes

- ▶ Identify wider metrics
- ▶ RTPI 2020: *Measuring Planning Outcomes*



# Challenges

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## ▶ Resourcing

- ▶ Significant decrease from 2009/10 to 2019-20
- ▶ This is most profound in policy spending
- ▶ Spending per-capita varies significantly by region
  - ▶ National average is around £5.5; Closer to £3 in North West, West Midlands, and Yorkshire

## ▶ Governance

- ▶ The limits of devolution
- ▶ Strategic planning and inter-governmental cooperation

Thank you!