



Module Specification

Local Planning

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Local Planning

Module code: UBGMPM-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Environment & Technology

Department: FET Dept of Geography & Environmental Mgmt

Partner institutions: None

Field: Geography and Environmental Management

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Spatial planning at the local scale, whatever it may be called, is a crucial element in any planning systems attempts to stimulate development and economic activity, deliver sustainable communities and protect natural environments. People will always need housing, schools, shops, places of work and leisure. Ensuring the right amount, quality and location of these constituents of towns and cities is what local planning is all about. However, despite the diversity of local planning regimes throughout the EU and beyond, wherever local planning is carried out it faces similar

problems and tensions, either within local areas, or between sources of central and local government power. For example:

What are the key objectives driving the local plan process and how are they prioritised?

How and to what extent is local distinctiveness expressed in local planning, if at all?

How inclusive is the local plan process? Does it express local neighbourhood and community concerns? Is it principally driven by central directives or developer concerns?

How does the local plan process manage the tension between providing both certainty and flexibility in policy terms?

For this reason the Module concentrates on these intractable and pervasive issues and dilemmas for local planning practice. It provides a critical reflection on these issues and dilemmas along with advice and guidance for the practice of local planning.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: Students will gain a critical and thorough insight into the main challenges facing local planning.

Transferable skills developed through the module will include:

Self-directed learning and time management

Use of an academic library

Carrying out secondary research

Development of the ability to construct concise arguments and defend them

Writing in professional and academic styles to a high standard

Outline syllabus: Module structure:

Module introduction and ethos. The purposes of local planning. Enduring dilemmas, themes, and tensions in local planning. Discretion and local distinctiveness. Actors, interests and stakeholders for local planning.

Local planning for sustainable homes and work in urban areas.

Public participation in local planning: from consultation to participation and planning for real. Bonding, bridging and capacity building.

Local planning for sustainable homes and work in rural areas.

Local planning for public spaces and the public realm.

Power, local planning and the role of the planner. The communicative turn in local planning. The collaborative planner.

Community plan making? Localism, neighbourhood planning and empowerment in practice.

Skills for local plan communication. Analysing local plan communicative strategies. Planning and alternative media.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning via on-line module materials and links to additional learning resources.

Independent learning includes essential reading, assessment preparation and completion. Independently managed group based learning will also be required.

Contact time: 0hrs

Assimilation and development of knowledge: 80hrs

Assessment: 70hrs

Total: 150hrs

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Understanding the key questions, problems and issues in local planning policy and practice, and the variety of ways they have been addressed by different local planning authorities. A1 (IC), A2 (IC), A3 (ICA), A5 (ICA), A7 (ICA), A9 (I)

MO2 Have a knowledge of the variety of work which is described as local planning, and the diversity of actors and agencies involved. A1 (ICA), A2 (IC), A3 (ICA), A5 (IA), A9 (A).

MO3 Understand the importance of policy ambiguity, flexibility and precision in local spatial planning. A1 (ICA), A2 (ICA), A3 (IC).

MO4 Understand the importance of the presentation and communication strategies of local planning documents and the development of skills in critiquing, drafting and defending policies. A12 (ICA), A9 (ICA), A5 (ICA), A7 (IA).

MO5 Understand how planning issues affect different groups of the population and how local planners reconcile potential conflicts. A5 (ICA), A7 (ICA), A1 (IC), A2 (IC), A3 (ICA).

MO6 Have the capacity to evaluate local planning policies from a variety of perspectives and apply some of the theoretical elements encountered in this module. A3 (ICA), A5 (ICA), A7 (ICA), A1 (I), A2 (I), A9 (IC), A11 (ICA), A12 (ICA).

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 150 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link

<https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmpm-15-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment will be based upon one component: a 3,500 word essay which provides critical analysis and reflection on the themes and local plan making processes studied by the module.

The essay should be 3,500 words (plus photos, maps, diagrams and statistical data as appropriate). Where it draws on academic and professional material (including graphical material and data) the sources should be referenced in the Harvard style.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Essay (3500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Essay (3500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: