

The Idox Information Service

An invaluable resource for planners



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The UK's leading planning organisations and consultancies trust us to keep them informed about issues affecting the profession, the latest research, opinion and good practice. And now, in an exclusive arrangement, RTPI members can benefit from a 30% discount on individual subscriptions.

We provide speedy access, in a single resource, to a wealth of planning knowledge and practice, both UK and international. Wherever you are in the UK, and whatever stage you are at in your career, the Idox Information Service can help you.

By subscribing today, you can join 10,000 others in benefiting from our unique and wide-ranging collection. Whether you are interested in spatial planning or community engagement, the historic environment or new developments – if it matters to the built environment professions, we cover it.

What matters to you

From protecting our coastlines to creating better homes and regenerating cities, planners help make better places, and we would like to help you:

- > Keep up to date with huge variety of policy, current ideas and new directions you face every day planning;
- > Develop and maintain your professional knowledge as part of your CPD;
- > Save you time in your busy schedule, by gathering, filtering and quality checking information you need, giving you piece of mind that you have the best, and latest, thinking at your finger tips;
- > Prepare for the RTPI's Assessment of Professional Competence (APC);
- > Prepare your own articles for publication to raise your own professional profile;
- > Prepare presentations for events or meetings, helping you influence and engage others in your wish to create great places.

"I have made use of the service for many years and always find the materials topical and reliable. One of the real strengths of Idox is the breadth of coverage available meaning that it's possible to keep on top of new developments in a timely and informed way."

Professor Deborah Peel (MRTPI), University of Dundee



Who are we?

The Idox Information Service has been supporting planners in the UK for over 40 years. We were originally established in the early 1970s as 'The Planning Exchange', a cutting-edge service to keep planners informed about the latest developments on planning and the built environment. The model was so successful we widened our remit to cover all areas of local and regional public policy, including economic development, urban and rural regeneration, education and skills, and social services.

Our traditional planning expertise, together with our wider coverage of social policy issues, makes us a unique and invaluable resource for busy planners. We have members from all parts of the planning profession, including housing, transport and health, alongside academics and solicitors.

So what is the Idox Information Service?

We are a subscription-based information service, providing our members with a central point of reference for research and evidence on public policy issues. Our team of research officers continuously scan the emerging literature to identify relevant research reports, professional and academic journal articles and key books, sifting material so you don't have to.

As a member you can access our database, which contains over 200,000 references, each with its own short summary, giving you quick and easy access to 40 years of policy analysis, comment and good practice. This is an essential resource for current members, whether they are undertaking in-depth research or seeking a quick summary of recent evidence on a topic.

Each record includes a summary of the key themes and any conclusions or findings in the document. Within a few minutes or even seconds, members can access research and best practice essential to their role!

**YOUR
INFORMATION
SERVICE**

-  Database of 200,000+ reports and articles
-  Latest policy and research straight to your inbox
-  Member briefings on key topics in planning
-  Personalised alerts on what matters to you

Tackling real issues

A member involved in preparing a town centre strategy for their authority wanted to learn from other towns and cities across the country facing very similar issues in their high streets.

Using our database, they were quickly able to browse through the key points from a range of up-to-date and relevant information, a briefing paper from the Retail Planning Knowledge Base at Stirling University, a guide to the evidence from the Future High Streets Forum, and a report on parking in town centres from the Association of Town and City Management (ATCM).

We helped them identify the main issues to be tackled and approaches recommended, based on the evidence and on strategies in other areas:

- > [Shop fronts and vacant property - dealing with the problem of empty shops;](#)
- > [Improving the appearance of the high street – creating a sense of place, design of the public realm, street design, lighting, street art;](#)
- > [Improving transport and access – issues of parking, street layout, pedestrian access;](#)
- > [Boosting business and improving the retail offer – to create a sustainable economic environment, including support for local markets, and changes to business rates to help small retailers;](#)
- > [In-town versus out-of-town retailing and the mix of uses;](#)
- > [Getting people back into town centres – living over the shop, leisure activities, events and the night-time economy.](#)

Keeping up to date

Weekly bulletin

You will have access to our Weekly Bulletin, which showcases a selection of the most significant and interesting new material we have identified over the past week, on topics including planning, regeneration, housing and transport. The New Government Publications section also includes important news releases from central government.

Topic updates

Our Town and Country Planning Topic Update provides a summary of all the planning documents which have been added to the database over the past fortnight. You can also subscribe to topic updates on associated themes in which you might have a specific interest, including Housing, Urban Regeneration, Property Development and Architecture and Design, amongst others.

Email alerts

Need to know about a specific and new topic? Simply carry out a search of our database on a specific subject that you are interested in, and refine the search until you find exactly the material you need. Then use the 'save as alert' button to receive email updates whenever new content is added in this area.

Our planning members have set up alerts on a wide variety of subjects - everything from listed buildings to smart cities, allotments to national parks - reflecting the range of issues planners have to deal with.

Briefings

We have a wealth of experience in finding, organising and analysing information. Through the day-to-day work of delivering our information service we are ideally placed to recognise the current 'hot topics' in the subjects we cover.

We use this knowledge and experience to prepare regular briefings on current issues of interest to our members. Each briefing draws together comment and analysis, emerging evidence and case study examples to provide members with a short, evidence-based overview of the topic.

Recent briefings have covered topics such as town centres, community engagement in development planning, and smart cities. As a member you will be able to access these unique resources.



How relevant is our subject coverage to you?

Examples of planning topics we cover regularly include: strategic planning; spatial development; placemaking; local development planning; planning obligations; retail planning; infrastructure planning; design guidance; green infrastructure and open spaces; housing supply and need; land and sites; and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

We also cover related topics which planners frequently come across in their work, including the environment, urban regeneration and economic development, tourism, transport and health. A key benefit, often mentioned, is that members chance across interesting ideas, case studies or research in areas other than planning, which they would not otherwise have seen.

Where do we find high-quality resources?

One of our strengths is that we don't limit our collection to documents from a small pool of organisations or publishers. We cast our net as widely as possible and select documents based on their usefulness to our members, rather than taking the easy option of restricting ourselves to the key organisations in each field.

As an illustration of the breadth of our coverage, over the past year we have alerted our members to reports from over 1,000 different organisations, and journal articles from over 300 different journals. The time and effort we invest in sourcing, assessing, summarising and circulating information from these sources saves our members time and money – and does so with much greater breadth and depth than they could hope to do themselves.



Example organisations

- Royal Town Planning Institute
- Town and Country Planning Association
- Planning Advisory Service
- English Heritage
- Historic Scotland
- Environment Agency
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research
- Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

Example journals

- Planning
- Town and Country Planning
- Town Planning Review
- Journal of Planning and Environment Law
- Scottish Planning and Environmental Law
- Scottish Planner
- Planning Theory and Practice
- Urban Studies
- Urban Design
- European Planning Studies

Contact us

You can submit your details using the contact form on our website if you would like more information on membership of the service:

<http://www.theknowledgeexchange.co.uk/become-a-member/>

Alternatively you can also give us a ring on 0141 574 1920, or email AskTheResearchTeam@idoxgroup.com.