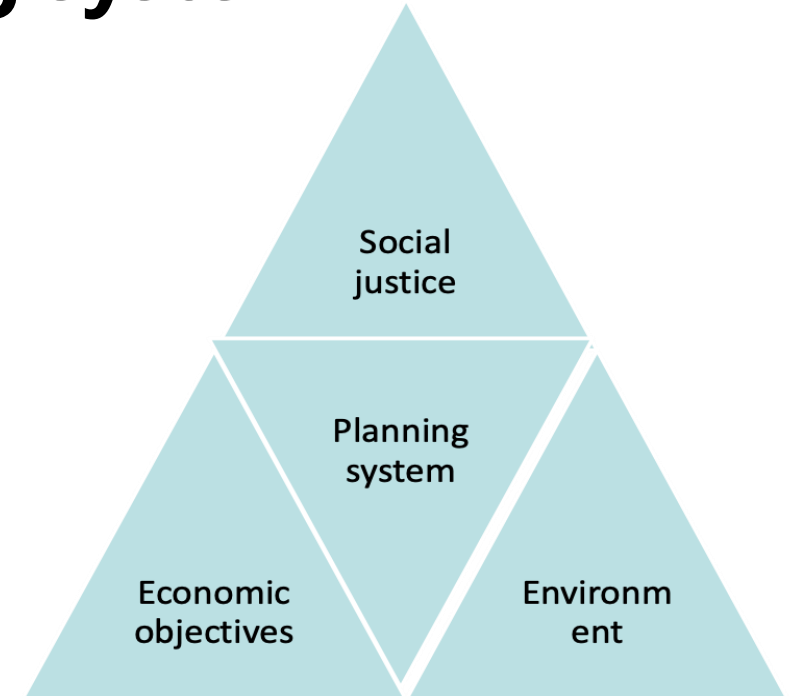


How could better use of data and digital technologies improve the planning system?

Dr Reyhaneh Shojaei

Overview of the UK planning system

- Planning objectives: Campbell's (1996) triangle
- A 'plan-led' system
- Different actors, levels, and a multi-scalar regulatory framework



- Local Planning Authorities' elaborate Local Plans, compliance with NPPF
- Planning applications: developers/landowners apply for project-specific planning permission

The planning system is slow, complex, costly and un-transparent....

- Lack of up-to-date plans
- Slow process
- Over-production of documents
- Lack of transparency



[https://www.cchpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk/Research/Start-Year/2018/digital built britain housing network/position paper digitising planning](https://www.cchpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk/Research/Start-Year/2018/digital_built_britain_housing_network/position_paper_digitising_planning)

Digitisation of the planning system

- Only have basic digital tools in place, such as the Planning Portal (2002) for e-submission, now 90% of applications
- But it's not a fully digitised process:
 1. person-centric process
 2. ill-suited for sharing
 3. no aggregation of data
 4. no coordination between different actors



Data usage in the planning system

- Plan making process
- Planning application process
- Site search and appraisal process
- Plan monitoring process



Expected benefits of the digitisation of the planning system

- The use of digital tools can improve **transparency, efficiency** and allow **cost and time savings**
- Benefits are expected at every stage of the planning process

Site search and appraisal

- Integrate data in single platforms
- Coordinate stakeholders

Plan monitoring

- Allow more accurate assessment of outcomes
- Make data more accessible

Public consultation

- Digital platforms can encourage community involvement
- Make planning information more visual and accessible

But note!

- Digitisation is not a cheap and quick solution



What are the constraints on the wider use of data and digitisation in the UK planning system?

- Decentralisation
- Data collection: issues of ownership, privacy and security
- Lack of time, skills or resources for change
- Resistance to change
- Scattered and uncoordinated innovation

The digital divide

- Of the eight million people in the UK who don't use the internet, 90% also suffer from other economic or social disadvantages
- Even before COVID-19, digital exclusion was a reality for a fifth of the UK's population (across all ages)

https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/BeyondThePandemic_digitaldivide

Stakeholder engagement

- Identify stakeholders
- Choose an appropriate approach for stakeholder engagement:
 1. Prior to the stakeholder engagement process
 2. During the stakeholder engagement process
 3. After the stakeholder engagement exercise

[https://www.cchpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk/Research/Start-Year/2018/construction innovation hub/stakeholder engagement ngd](https://www.cchpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk/Research/Start-Year/2018/construction%20innovation%20hub/stakeholder%20engagement%20ngd)



<https://www.cchpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk/>

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