

60754 Use of AI in Planning Decisions

Please provide information on Edinburgh's use of artificial intelligence (AI), automated decision-support tools, or machine-learning systems within the planning process.

For the purposes of this request, "AI" includes machine-learning systems, automated decision-support tools, computer vision tools, natural language processing tools, generative AI, or any other system that performs automated analysis or decision support.

Please provide the following information covering the period 1 January 2020 to the present (or earliest records held):

AI Systems in Use

A list of any AI systems, tools, or software currently used, or previously used, by the authority in relation to planning functions (including development management, planning enforcement, local plan preparation, validation, consultation analysis, or site monitoring).

For each system, please provide:

- Name of the software or system
- Supplier or developer
- A short description of what the system is used for
- Purpose and Application

[There are no AI systems that deal with any of the Planning functions outlined above. There is automation of systems linking e-Development Scotland with the Planning Portal and the Document Management System.](#)

For each system identified above, please state which part(s) of the planning process it supports (for example: document analysis, application validation, environmental assessment, consultation responses, site identification, enforcement monitoring, etc.).

[Not applicable.](#)

Decision-making Role

Please state whether any AI tools are used:

- to make decisions automatically
- to provide recommendations or risk scores to planning officers
- solely as administrative or analytical support.

[No AI tools are used.](#)

Pilots or Trials

Please list any AI tools that have been piloted, tested, or trialled in relation to planning functions but are not currently in use.

[No AI tools are used.](#)

Policies and Governance

Please provide copies of any internal policies, guidance documents, or governance frameworks relating to the use of AI in planning functions.

No documents are present for Planning specifically.

The Generative AI Policy is going to be considered at the Policy and Sustainability Committee shortly. This will cover the governance and guard rails to be implemented for using AI technologies. The policy will also cover ethics, equalities, diversity, and sustainability. If approved, a Governance Board will also be established to ensure the Council has standard operating practices and controls in place. The Governance Policy will also cover the importance of the requirement to ensure quality checking of AI output and keeping humans in the loop is critical, when using AI to automate time-consuming administrative tasks, such as form processing, appointment scheduling, or routine triage. AI can enable human professionals to redirect their expertise toward higher value, complex, or emotionally sensitive cases that require judgment and empathy.

There is nothing specifically related to Planning in the Generative AI Policy.

Future Plans

Please state whether the authority is currently exploring or planning the adoption of AI tools in planning services.

There is no current work programme on AI in Planning.