

# Introduction to the National Planning Improvement Framework

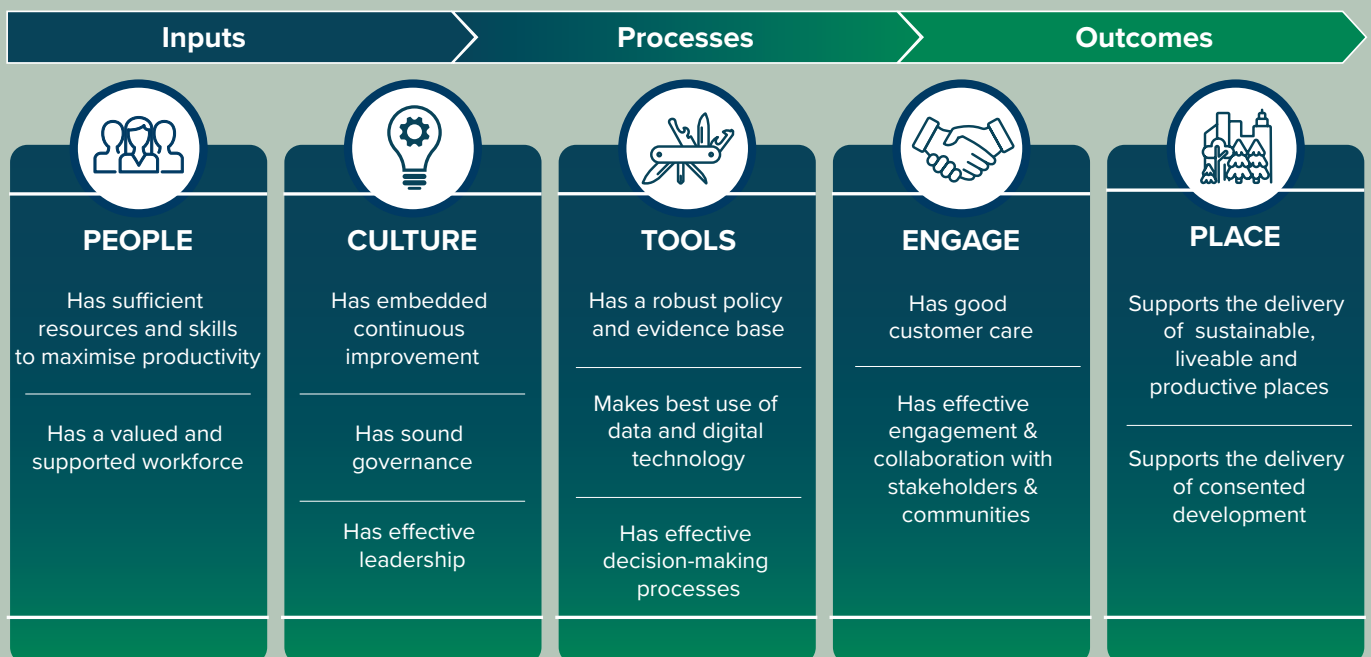


## What is it?

The National Planning Improvement Framework (NPIF) is a new approach to support the improvement of planning authorities. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 sets out that planning authorities are to prepare a report on their performance annually. The process is led by the National Planning Improvement team, who sit in the Improvement Service, and the framework was piloted over 2024/25.

The planning authorities undertake a self-assessment to determine how they are performing against the '12 attributes of a high performing planning authority'. These outline what a planning authority needs to perform well. They are split into five themes and incorporate the inputs, processes, and outcomes of the service. In the lower scoring attributes, improvement actions are agreed to take forward.

## 12 Attributes of a high performing planning authority



# The NPIF Process

## Step 1.

### Undertake self-assessment

The planning authority undertakes a self-assessment based on the 12 attributes of a high performing planning authority, and they identify improvement actions.

## Step 2.

### Peer Collaborative Review

A peer collaborative review is undertaken involving the planning authority, NPI team, partner planning authority, and the stakeholders and customers of the service.

## Step 3.

### Publish Improvement Action Plan and Performance Assessment

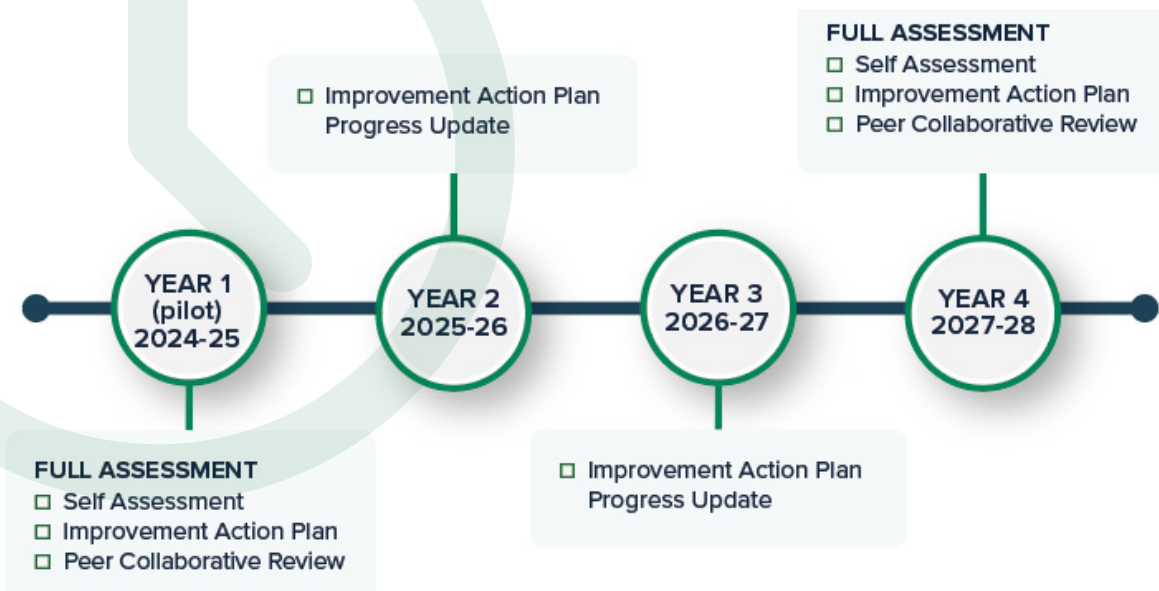
We publish the reports on the IS webpages, send them to the Chief Executive and the Minister.

## Step 4.

### Implement Improvement Actions

The improvement actions are implemented and monitored by the planning authority and the NPI team.

# The NPIF timescales



## Support with NPIF

The National Planning Improvement team provides a wide range of support to planning authorities. They provide a critical friend role throughout the NPIF process, share best practice and learning, and communicate key issues facing planning authorities.

If you have any questions for the team or would like more information on the NPIF, please contact us via [NPI@improvementservice.org.uk](mailto:NPI@improvementservice.org.uk)