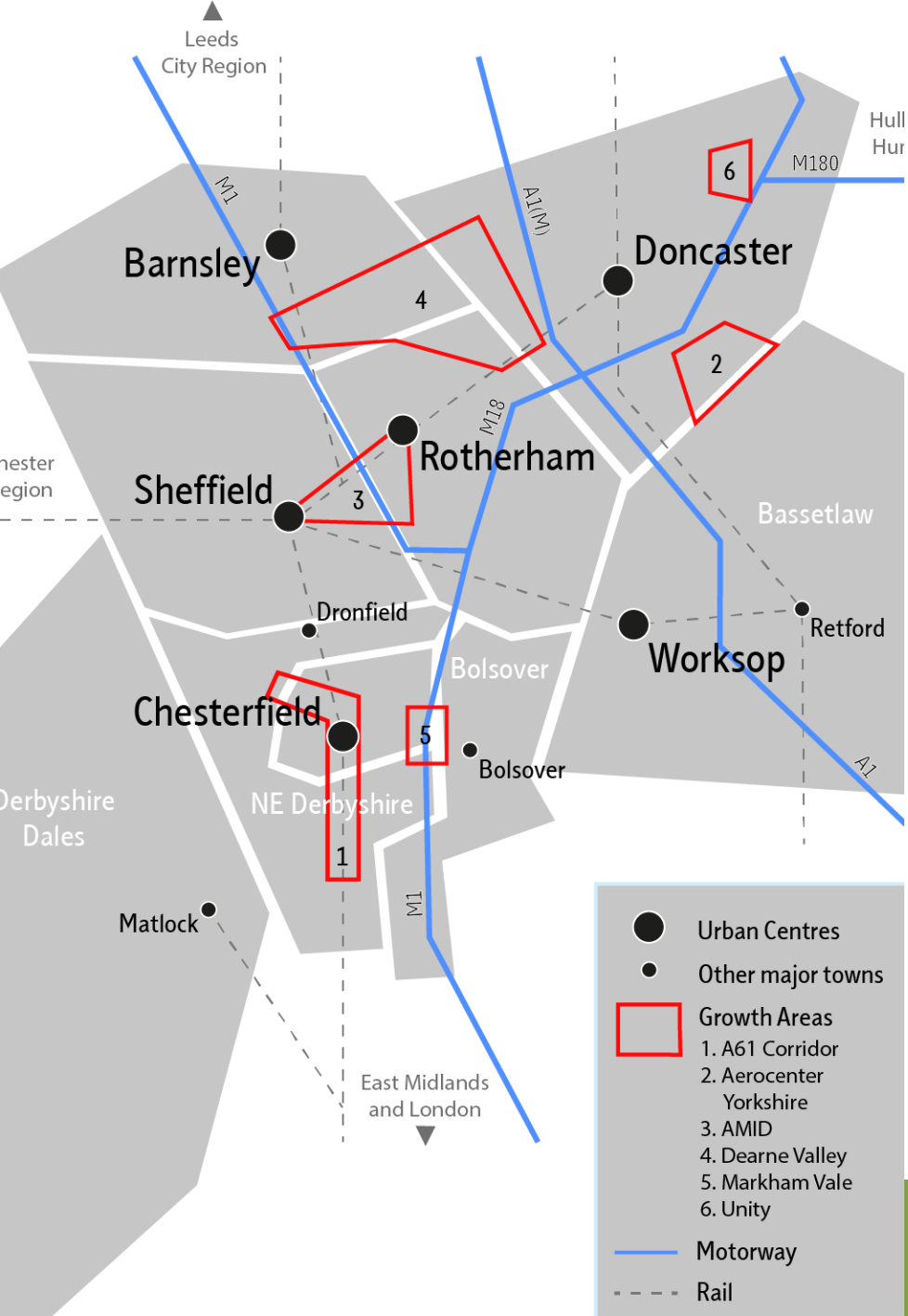


# PLANNING PRODUCTIVITY AND RESOURCE REVIEWS



**Sheffield**  
**City Region**

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# CURRENT WORK PROGRAMME

## Duty to Cooperate

- SCR Statement of Common Ground

## Shared Planning Approaches

- PAS resource Reviews

## Evidence Base

- Joint commissions eg. Strategic Employment Land Appraisal

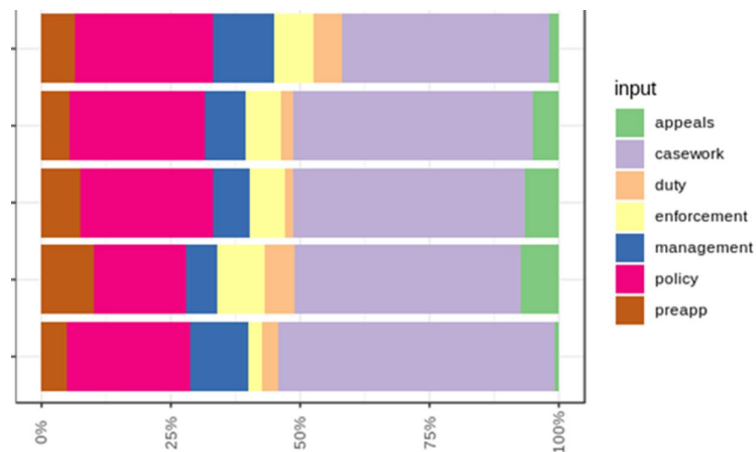
## Staff Recruitment and Retention

- Developing links with two universities

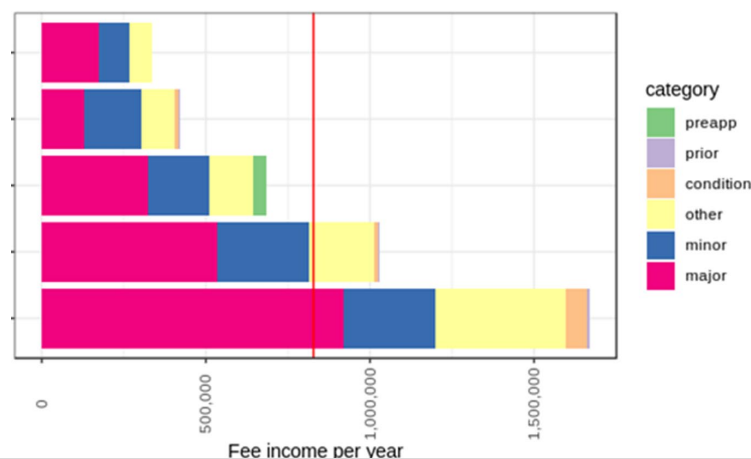
# CONTEXT

- The Local Enterprise Partnership suggested that there could be merit in Local Planning Authorities better aligning their respective offers and identify opportunities to share best practice in order to improve overall planning performance
- The Planning Advisory Service, who had worked closely with two authorities in particular, were therefore approached and suggested undertaking resource reviews, ideally for the city region as a whole
- 5 authorities agreed to participate as “pathfinders”
- This presentation provides a flavour of the scope of the project as well as the main findings and recommendations

# SCOPE OF REVIEWS



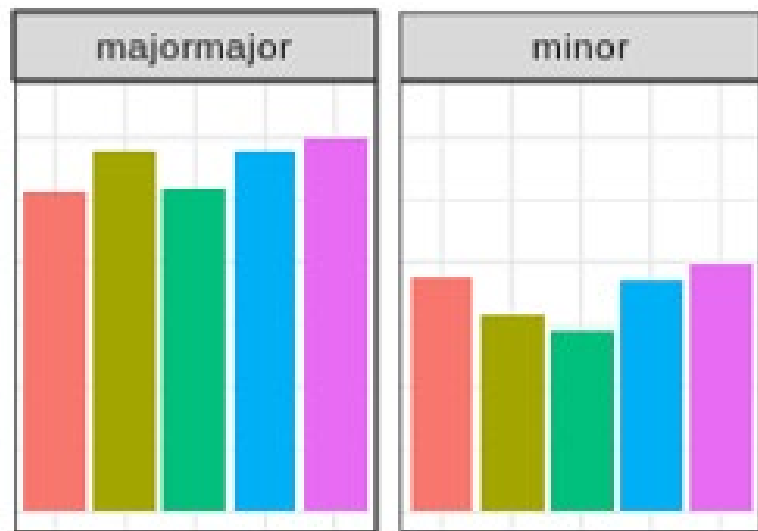
Service costs



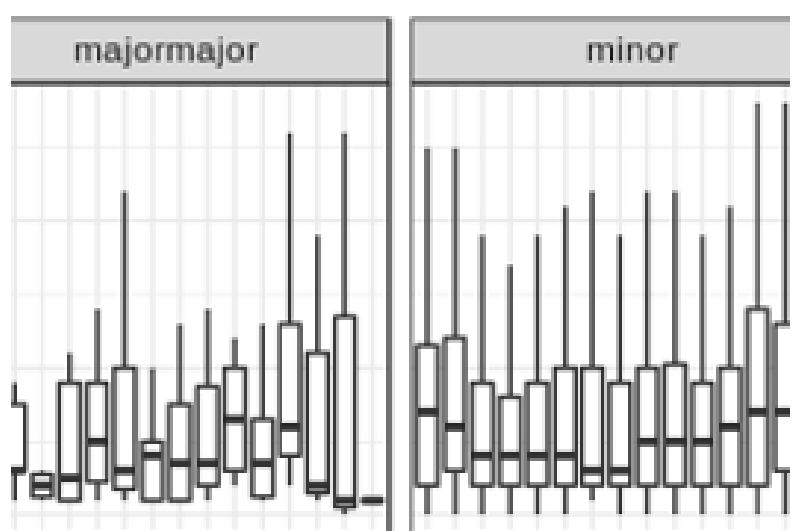
Fees and other income

count	Caseworkers	cases_each
1082	7	155
2135	20	107
3420	33	104
1721	18	96
394	8	49

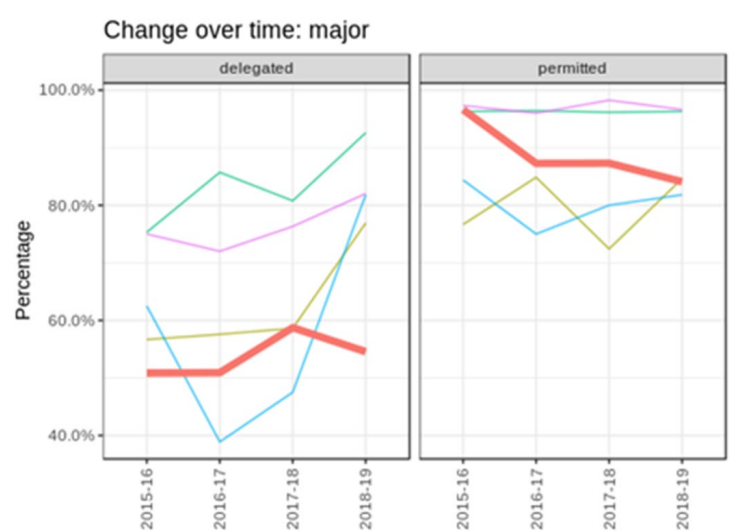
Workload and staffing



Decision times



Validation timescales



Delegation & approval

## MAIN FINDINGS

- Overall the group is performing well, and there were no alarming findings or things in need of urgent correction.
- This group of 5 councils represents £4m of fee income and £6.1m costs
- All councils (excluding CIL collection income) operating at a 'loss' on pre-application work
- Cost neutral services? If cost neutral e.g. = casework, appeals and duty service then all operate a largely cost neutral service.
  - Policy, enforcement, management tax payer subsidised.

# MAIN FINDINGS CONTINUED

- Performance:
  - Majors are largely stable across the group
  - Minors are poorer, 2 councils stand out
  - Other categories of applications are all good
  - Conditions and minors are an issue for everyone
- Validation: getting valid applications ‘through the door’ has improved significantly across the group in the last year
- Outcomes:
  - Majors - officer delegations 76 - 93%, with 82% - 96% approved
  - Minors - officer delegations 89 – 97%, with 80 – 92% approved
  - Others – officer delegations 97 – 99%, with 94 – 96% approved
- Withdrawn applications / free goes
  - Top end across the group 5% withdrawn applications
  - Top end free goes 15%
- Backlogs – all councils are reducing their backlog

## THE 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Standard planning forms – consistent planning paperwork (validation, pre-app, etc) across all authorities
2. Strategic Pre-app – aligning processes/procedures/fees and getting all key agencies into one room.
3. Establish true cost model of planning – this would provide better understanding on exactly how much planning services cost and how much development/investment they brings into the region.
4. Streamlining conditions – this would look to reduce the number and type of planning conditions and make them more consistent.
5. Annual review and reflection – an annual improvement event to review progress, along with resource review as part of this.

# NEXT STEPS

- Apply recommendations across all SCR districts
- One South Yorkshire district proposed to lead each project
  - ongoing PAS support and advice still needed
  - SCR hold annual review and reflection
- Dedicated task group to work up detail
  - Development Management managers
- Wider buy in and support
  - SCR Infrastructure Board
  - LPAs
  - LEP stakeholders



# THANK YOU

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Joe Jenkinson

Chair of SCR Heads of Planning

Garreth Bruff

Senior Programme Manager – Infrastructure & Planning

**Sheffield**  
**City Region**

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