

Dr Matthew Kennedy
APPRISOL
Innovation Northumbria: Incubator
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Professional Profile

I am a planner who has worked in local government and private sector with a broad spectrum of planning experience which has included; neighbourhood planning at various stages, writing local plan policy, site allocation work, and both sustainability appraisal and integrated assessment work for emerging local plans.

Professional membership

Member of the Regional Studies Association

Education and Qualifications

PhD Public Policy - Northumbria University	2025
MA Town and Regional Planning - Leeds Beckett University	2019
LLB (GDL Conversion) - Northumbria University	2015
CILEX Specialist Course in Insolvency and Debt Recovery	2014
Postgraduate Diploma in Law (GDL) - BPP Law School (Leeds)	2012

Work Experience

October 2025 to Present day – Independent Consultant Hertsmere Borough Council since 03 January 2026

Key Responsibilities

- I am currently leading on the making and confirming of Article 4 Directions in relation to HMOs. This has involved researching the issue of HMO within the borough's boundary and wards and identifying the problem areas whilst compiling the evidence base. This has required a mix of quantitative and qualitative research skills to incorporate into policy objectives and decision making.

April 2025 – 10 October 2025, Senior Planning Officer (Policy), Rossendale Borough Council

Key Responsibilities

- Article 4 Direction evidence, local plan pending review, 5 year land supply review, monitoring

02 December 2024 – 27 April 2025, Planning Officer, (Maternity Cover), Rutland County Council

Key Responsibilities

- Assisting with Regulation 19 consultation and preparation of Local Plan for examination
- Making changes to policies during consultation phases

March 2022 – December 2024, Senior Research Assistant, Northumbria University

Key Responsibilities

- 01/01/24-31/05/2024 – Access and Participation Plan Evaluation, 01/12/2023-31/12/2024– Disabled academic project, 01/04/2021-31/12/2022– Social Value Engine Evaluation, 28/03/2022-31/12/2023– Purposeful health project: Growth accelerator

25 July 2022 – 02 July 2023, Planning Officer - Policy (Maternity Cover), Rochdale Borough Council

Key Responsibilities

- Developed reports on issues such as article 4 directions, developed an Integrated Assessment for the local plan, developed SPDs and masterplans with external consultants, advised on planning policy interpretation and reviewed the local plan
- S106 duties, including reviewing payments, negotiating agreements etc

04 October 2021 – 04 November 2022, Planning Consultant, Environmental Charity

Key Responsibilities

- Development of neighbourhood plans at various stages, proofread drafts of planning policy and planning submissions, co-ordinated and advising on planning issues and local plans, budgetary responsibility for volunteer activity – Carbon Literacy

03 September 2018 – 15 October 2021, Planning Policy Officer, Pendle Borough Council

Key Responsibilities

- Wrote planning policy in various policy areas, led in site and regeneration small site development, led and Programme officer for Neighbourhood Plans, Regulation 18 consultation for Part 2 plan

Academic work

My PhD research explored the concept of place-based governance in the emerging system of sub national governance in England. It applied 'systems theory' to institutional working in the context of low carbon buildings. The research extended the concept of place-based governance through the application of systems and strategic planning theory.

Publications and Research

Liddle J and Shutt J (eds) (2025) Cases on Public Sector Entrepreneurship: Elgar Cases in Entrepreneurship, Cheltenham, Glos. UK Edward Elgar Publishing Chapter M Kennedy and J Shutt Entrepreneurial Meso-governance for Heat and Building Strategies https://www.elgar.com/shop/gbp/cases-on-public-sector-entrepreneurship-9781035315000.html?srsId=AfmBOope1noQqG5vjmT_JU823zNJynusVnN3uPfqdmTArSqYxC9qaNRf

McAreavey, R. Bosworth, G & Kennedy, M 'New tools for community development: The Social Value Engine & Participatory budgeting'. Presented at the 29th European Society for Rural Sociology Congress, Rennes, France, July 2023 <https://eprints.ncl.ac.uk/308430>

Work experience prior to starting in planning

Legal clerk to the Valuation Tribunal for England. Council tax and Business rates officer. Recovery officer – Initial bankruptcy proceedings as legal assistant in local government legal office. Chartered Institute of Legal Executives – Debt and Insolvency.