As a vital human need water has been absolutely critical to decisions as to where cities originate, how much they grow and the standard of living of the inhabitants. The relationship is complex, however; we need both continual availability and protection from its potential impacts: either too much or too little can have devastating consequences. Yet over recent decades flooding and scarcity episodes have become commonplace in even the most advanced countries. Moreover, future projections of changing climates, burgeoning populations and escalating urbanization has created an intense need for intervention measures that are appropriate to this uncertain context. A gradual recognition of the difficulties in managing these risks has turned the focus towards people and places; key tenets of spatial planning. Indeed, flooding and scarcity events cannot be disassociated from the socio-economic context within which they occur; being directly related to how we live, where we live and how we govern. Iain White’s book initially draws together information on a host of connected subjects from population growth to water scarcity to the relationship between humanity and nature before demonstrating how utilizing notions of risk and resilience could help improve the relationship between the city and its most precious resource. Part of the successful Natural and Built Environment Series, this book combines discussions of risk, water and spatial planning to provide an invaluable text for planning, geography and urban studies students in how to address urban water problems within a rapidly changing world.

Iain White is a qualified town planner, a chartered member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and a Lecturer in Spatial Planning at the University of Manchester. His main research interest lies in exploring issues surrounding water and the built environment.
Contents

- Introductory Note ................. about the study pack
- Sources .................... reading material/ case study
- In Focus ..................... top-level issues and questions
- Evidence .................... findings from the case study
- Challenges .................... methodological queries
The study pack contains selected planning material for individual or group practice-based study, following the methodological guidance provided in the book. Its value consists in:

**Further reading** get familiar with a complete planning case

**Focus questions** start with (methodologically) important issues

**Challenge questions** be inquisitive about methodology

**Further study** prepare for more detailed study

**Competence development** such as interpretation, abstraction, organisation, and critical spirit/ questioning
Sequences of interest

- Task $N \xrightarrow{Technique \; X} \text{Element } K \; (\text{of the plan})$
- Task $N \xrightarrow{then} \text{Task } N+1 \xrightarrow{then} \text{etc.}$

Top-level questions

- What are the elements of the plan (e.g. objectives, action)?
- Which tasks were set to produce these elements?
- Which techniques were employed?
- What is described in the planning methodology?
- What is the sequence of the planning tasks?
- Which resources (HR, money, time) were used for each task?
The *London Plan* presents the spatial development strategy for Greater London. The consultation draft replacement plan (below) is a comprehensive volume of almost three hundred pages. The text is easy to read, and is accompanied by useful illustrations.

  
  http://www.london.gov.uk/shaping-london/london-plan/strategy/download.jsp
Although the *London Plan* is a comprehensive document, it is articulated with the *Mayor’s Transport Strategy* and the *Economic Development Strategy*. Thus, ideally it should be studied in conjunction with the other two documents.

- Mayor of London (2010) *Mayor’s Transport Strategy*  

There are also other related plans, such as the environmental programme *Leading to a Greener London* and *The London Housing Strategy*.

- Mayor of London (2009) *Leading to a Greener London*
Sources: Support

It is a good idea to consult important support documents such as the *Economic Evidence Base*, the *Greater London Authority Act*, and the *Integrated Impact Assessment*.

- Mayor of London (2009) *Economic Evidence Base*


- *Greater London Authority Act 1999*
Elements of the *London Plan* include vision, objectives, and policies (divided in strategic, planning decisions, LDF preparation)

While most of the tasks — for instance, communicating the vision, objectives, and policies — are implicit in the *London Plan*, Chapter 8 is about methodology regarding implementation, monitoring and review.

Techniques employed in the creation of the *London Plan* are implicit in the volume; ‘non-declared’ techniques — for instance, employed in the presentation of the intended outcomes regarding space — can be identified through the output of the respective task — for instance, maps.
Besides Chapter 8, the *London Plan* does not include methodological provisions regarding planning tasks and techniques — and even so, the volume does not get very technical.

The *London Plan* follows the broad methodological provisions of the *GLA Act* for a (democratic) planning process based on proposals, consultations, and revisions (§41 and §340).

In contrast to the *London Plan*, the *Integrated Impact Assessment* report contains a full methodology for its own scope of tasks — including their sequence — with references to the techniques used.
Challenges

Even well-prepared planning proposals such as the *London Plan* may not satisfy everyone’s wishes — whether in content or methodology. Regarding the latter, here are some challenges:

- **Compatibility** is highlighted in the *LGA Act*. Are all the policies of the *London Plan* compatible among themselves, and with the related documents? How can we check in either case? Can we just use techniques from the *IIA report*?

- Is it clear how the policies were conceived? Could this be important — for instance, to check for bias or verify the reasoning? *Idem* for the vision and objectives.

- What is the evidence that the proposed plan will succeed?

- How are (performance) indicators used in the *London Plan*?

- Would you include a full and formal methodology regarding planning tasks, their sequence, and associated techniques in a section of the plan or in an accompanying document?
About the Book

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