



BRIEFING

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON 10 NOVEMBER 2011: THE IMPORTANCE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLACE MAKING TO THE ECONOMY OF SCOTLAND

INTRODUCTION

1. This *Briefing* sets out RTPI Scotland's key points for the Government-led debate in Parliament on 10 November on "The Importance of Architecture and Place Making to the Scottish Economy".

KEY MESSAGES

2. Planning is all about creating great places for people. A properly resourced planning system, working within the right framework, is key to achieving ambitions for sustainable development, economic growth and successful places for people across Scotland. It can highlight pressures for change, identify opportunities and build appropriate safeguards. It can provide the long term, pro-active vision for Scotland through integrating and future-proofing development. And it can allow people across Scotland to have a say in the future of the places where they live, work and relax.

3. Given this, if we are to create and protect places we need to:

Ensure that the planning system has a central role in providing visionary, integrated, cost saving and democratic approaches to shaping the future of Scotland through:

- improving **links between planning and key programmes** for infrastructure, economic development, regeneration, housing, transport and rural development through Single Outcome Agreements and Community Planning.

- ensuring that policy and investment decisions recognise that good planning is '**early intervention**' which can save costs in the long term by eliminating future issues.

Support the planning system to have a key role in helping to deliver outcomes such as sustainable development, economic growth and successful places through:

- ensuring that the **value of successful places** is recognised in policy and investment decisions.
- establishing new mechanisms and approaches to provide **resources to deliver infrastructure**.
- measuring the success of planning through the **outcomes** it provides, as well as the speed of decision making.

Provide the right framework for planning at national, regional, local and community levels to help deliver sustainable change through:

- building on the **plan-led system** through producing visionary strategic and local development plans, as well as pro-active supplementary planning guidance, to provide the framework for delivering sustainable change.
- **engaging communities effectively** in planning processes, especially through early participation in the development plan process and through techniques such as Charrettes.

Provide adequate resources to deliver good planning and to ensure that we have an effective workforce now and in the future through:

- supporting officers and councillors to **improve their effectiveness** through continuing the planning development programme.
- **learning from success** and invest in research and analysis to ensure we have better understanding of what works from, for example, the Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative.
- **safeguarding funding for accredited degree courses** to ensure a continuing supply of planning professionals.

OUR COMMITMENT

RTPI Scotland is committed to supporting those involved in creating great places for people. We will do this by:

- leading thinking through:
 - demonstrating how positive planning can support place development through, for example our recently published Briefing Paper on Planning and Enterprise Areas

- working with the development sector to develop thinking on how planning can help to deliver great places in difficult times through our Convenor's Colloquium discussion dinners
- promoting the role of planning and placemaking as part of the cities strategy
- developing skills and knowledge by providing CPD opportunities for those involved in the built environment through organising events
- brokering dialogue and action across the range of players by:
 - working to establishing a Scottish Forum for Planning which will bring together key players in planning to constructively discuss approaches to key issues such as how planning can deliver great places
 - supporting Scottish Parliament All Party Group on Architecture and the Built Environment
 - bringing together training providers, academia, employers and practitioners to identify approaches to skills development through a revised Scottish Planning Education Forum

If you want to discuss this please contact Craig McLaren, National Director of RTPi Scotland on 0131 229 9628 or 07850 926881

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The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPi) is the champion of planning and the planning profession. We work to promote the art and science of planning for the public benefit. We have around 2,200 members in Scotland and a worldwide membership of nearly 23,000. We:

- support policy development to improve approaches to planning for the benefit of the public
- maintain the professional standards of our members
- support our members, and therefore the majority of the planning workforce, to have the skills and knowledge they need to deliver planning effectively
- maintain high standards of planning education
- develop and promote new thinking, ideas and approaches which can improve planning
- support our membership to work with others who have a role in developing places in Scotland
- improve the understanding of planning and the planning system to policy makers, politicians, practitioners and the general public.

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