



BRIEFING

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON 16 NOVEMBER 2011: REGENERATION STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

1. This *Briefing* sets out RTPI Scotland's key points for the Government-led debate in Parliament on 16 November on the Regeneration Strategy.

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. In June 2011 the Royal Town Planning Institute responded to the Scottish Government discussion paper *Building a Sustainable Future*. Our key points were:
 - The Institute is pleased that Scottish Government recognises the **importance of regeneration** and we believe it to be essential that regeneration enjoys the support and promotion of Scottish Government into the future. We recognise the tight fiscal circumstances that Government has to work within and, given this, feel that regeneration should be seen as a priority in the allocation of resources. Regeneration is an essential contributor to economic growth, social cohesion and environmental quality.

- We welcome the efforts made by Scottish Government to generate a debate about future approaches to regeneration in Scotland. However, the Institute is concerned that Scottish Government haven't used this exercise to explicitly recognise that the key objective of regeneration is to create great places for people. Unfortunately, the discussion paper does not adequately cover **the vital contribution that good placemaking** brings to regeneration areas, nor does it set out the economic, environmental and social benefits that it can bring communities.
- We are also concerned that the discussion paper does not set out the **role that planning and the planning system** have to offer in supporting sustainable change to help regenerate communities. A properly-planned approach to regeneration will create regeneration which is sustainable over the longer term.
- **A properly-resourced planning system, working within the correct framework, is key to realising ambitions** for regeneration and its objectives of sustainable development, economic growth and successful places. It will allow, and indeed encourage, people across Scotland to have a say in the future of their places. The Institute believes that there are four cornerstones of planning which will help to achieve Scottish Government's regeneration objectives, namely:
 - ensuring that the **planning system has a central role** in providing visionary, integrated, cost-saving and democratic approaches to shaping the future of Scotland and, therefore, to regeneration
 - supporting the planning system in its key role of **delivering outcomes** such as sustainable development, economic growth and successful places, so as to achieve regeneration
 - providing **the right framework** for planning at national, regional, local and community levels to deliver sustainable change through regeneration
 - providing **adequate resources** to deliver good planning, to ensure that a skilled and experienced workforce exists, now and in the future, with the expertise to bring forward further innovative approaches to regeneration
- Scottish **Government has a wide range of roles to play** in supporting regeneration, and these should be articulated more clearly so that its partners are clear about what it can do to help them. Key to this is the integration of different strands of Government policy so that long-term sustainable approaches to regeneration are delivered.

OUR COMMITMENT

4. RTPI Scotland wishes to be fully engaged in any discussions on future approaches to regeneration. Given this, we are committed to developing approaches to regeneration through our work aiming to:

- lead thinking on approaches that support planning
- develop further skills and knowledge required in planning
- broker dialogue and action across the full spectrum of players involved.

The Institute's full response to *Building a Sustainable Future* can be found at <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/download/12084/110609-Building-a-Sustainable-Future.pdf>

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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- 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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