



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

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Mr Andy Deacon
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30 January 2006

Dear Andy

ADAPTATION POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Institute welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation, available at [www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consultcc-nap-framework/consult .pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consultcc-nap-framework/consult.pdf). We welcome publication of the Adaptation Policy Framework, and its aim to provide stronger strategic direction on climate change adaptation across the UK by setting agreed cross-cutting objectives and measuring progress.

The RTPI is the UK body chartered to represent the planning profession. Our 19,000 members work across all sectors of central government, local government, government agencies, the voluntary sector, private consultancy, the development industry and academia. We offer these comments from the point of view of a diverse and policy neutral professional body, in accordance with our charter obligation to work for the public interest.

We offer the following comments -

Questions 1-3: Involvement in and consideration of adaptation

1. The Institute supports the Government's aim of integrating adaptation to climate change into the wider policy-making process, so that it can be weighed alongside other policy objectives and priorities. We have contributed to the work of Climate Change Stakeholder Groups, and support the integration of climate change considerations into the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of policies, plans and programmes at all levels. We agree that adaptation is a cross-cutting issue, and consider that regional and local development plans and strategies will have a key role to play in bringing sector adaptation plans together and in ensuring effective spatial responses to adaptation issues.

2. We support the aims of the Adaptation Policy Framework – to reduce risks, minimise damage, and take advantage of potential benefits by factoring in adaptation at an early stage in decision-making. The application of SEA to development plans provides a ready framework for including information on adaptation as part of baseline studies, and in the assessment of alternative proposals. Planning policies and actions, at all levels, are taking account of the impacts of climate change, including approaches to issues of flooding, energy efficiency, transportation, and housing design and layout. This work is reflected in government planning guidance.

Questions 6 and 7: Additional approaches to gathering evidence

3. While the Institute supports the work undertaken to create better understanding of adaptation solutions, we consider that greater understanding is needed of the potential threats from climate change, and the development of cross-sector monitoring systems and indicators.

Agency roles and responsibilities in adaptation

4. We consider that the UK Government's leadership on adaptation (*paragraph 1.5.1*) might be expressed with reference to the *UK Sustainable Development Strategy* and incorporate environmental protection and social policy issues relating, in particular, to health, safety and quality of life.

Question 9: Responsibility

5. There is a clear need for leadership, information, awareness-raising, and funding for particular schemes from government at all levels, but equally climate change adaptation should be addressed through individual decisions that may be influenced by other organisations across the private and voluntary sectors. At the local level, cross-cutting issues of climate change adaptation might usefully be addressed through community planning strategies.

Questions 10-12: Guidance and practice

6. The guidance being developed by UKCIP should be closely linked to guidance on undertaking SEA, together with the outcome of ongoing work on objectives, targets and indicators.

The Institute trusts that these brief comments are of assistance, and has no objection them being made available to the public in the usual way. If any of our comments require clarification or elaboration, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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