

PIPA - the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network - Action Plan for 2007 - 2008

Purpose of the Network

- To raise the profile of professional planning amongst people who are engaged in planning from a political perspective
- To provide a vehicle for all those involved in democratic planning to come together to build knowledge and exchange information and experiences
- To provide a sounding board to develop and improve democratic planning practice
- To provide a 'one stop shop' signposting service of professional planning information for all those involved in democratic planning within the UK

Role of the Core Group

The Core Group members reflect the interests and expertise of the Network membership and provide a point of engagement with other related groups. They are therefore well placed to keep the Network Manager alert to and abreast of current issues and sources of good practice, ensuring that the activities and resources offered to members are the most pertinent and relevant.

Actions

Raise the profile of professional planning amongst people who are engaged in planning from a political perspective

Action	By Whom	Outcomes	When
Develop a Marketing Strategy to build membership and activities	NM in conjunction with Networks Team	Marketing Strategy against which to monitor progress	April 2008
Carry out a member survey during 2008 to gauge levels of satisfaction and source potential content for the Business Plan 2008-09	NM advised by CG	A good level of response to survey to allow confident planning for the Network	March 2008
Host a reception at the Elected Members' Summer School	NM	Raise awareness of the Network	September 2008

Provide a vehicle for all those involved in democratic planning to come together to build knowledge and exchange information and experiences

Action	By Whom	Outcomes	When
Ensure that Network events and forum topics are topical and well publicised	NM advised by CG	Events achieve their attendance target and are well received (as indicated by the evaluation)	Quarterly
To offer in each UK nation	NM	A well informed and	2008: England

across 2 years a Conference of the style which re-launched PIPA in 2007	advised by CG	represented membership	+ Scotland
Enable relevant topics to be debated through the Discussion Forum	NM advised by CG	Member engagement. Help develop a collective voice on key issues	New topics introduced fortnightly

Provide a sounding board to develop and improve democratic planning practice

Action	By Whom	Outcomes	When
To develop a voice on the topic of 'the status of planning' to press: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chartered status of planning The status of the Chief Planning Officer within the local authority The need to increase the numbers of qualified planners 	NM advised by CG	A more focussed engagement with members	To build up to the 2008 PIPA Conferences
Provide intelligence to the RTPI Policy Team by identifying forthcoming issues	Nm advised by CG & Members	Political engagement at an earlier stage	On-going throughout 2008
To build co-operation with other organisations with shared interests, facilitating joint events whilst avoiding duplication	NM advised by CG	Regular liaison, perhaps with a representative on the Core Group	April 2008

Provide a 'one stop shop' signposting service of professional planning information for all those involved in democratic planning within the UK

Action	By Whom	Outcomes	When
Provide media representation through Media Ambassadors initiative	CG	To respond positively to all opportunities for publicity	On-going throughout 2008
Populate website with comprehensive resources.	NM advised by CG & Members	1 st class planning & politicians resource	On-going but major step-forward by February 2008

Key:

NM Network Manager

CG Core Group

Resources

PIPA – the Politicians in Planning Network will have £3,300 financial support from the Institute in 2008 and 11.5 hours per week of professional staff time.

Comments

PIPA has enormous potential to have an influence on national decision-making. It also has a strong role to play in helping politicians adjust to changes required by introduction of new planning systems.

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