



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

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The Food Discussion
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24th April 2008

Dear Sir / Madam

Choosing the Right Ingredients: the future for food in Scotland

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation which examines the ingredients of a successful food policy for Scotland.

The RTPI is the UK body chartered to represent the planning profession and offers these comments from the point of view of a diverse and policy-neutral professional body committed to supporting devolved government in Scotland. The Institute has approximately 2000 members in Scotland, working across all sectors of central government, local government, government agencies, the voluntary sector, private consultancy, the development industry and academia.

Since devolution, the Institute has empowered its RTPI in Scotland Office, together with its Scottish Executive Committee, with the responsibility for working with government and public bodies generally for the improvement of the planning system in Scotland. This is in accordance with its charter obligation to work for the public interest.

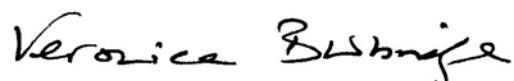
The quality and local provenance of our food in Scotland is a vital question for national debate. The RTPI in Scotland has a particular focus this year on the important synergies between planning, public health and our approach to climate change. Our Patrick Geddes Memorial Lecture, which will be given in Edinburgh this year by the Chief Medical Officer Harry Burns, explores this theme, and it is also the subject of our upcoming annual conference in the autumn.

The Institute supports the Scottish Government's vision for food in Scotland and agrees that *'it should make the nation healthier, wealthier and smarter with production making communities stronger and consumption respecting the local and global environment.'* The Institute considers

that the spatial planning implications of such a vision need to be clearly recognised. The vision should be based on sound policies relating to land use: to the protection of agricultural land, the encouragement of local markets, and to the provision of opportunities in urban areas for people to grow their own food. These factors need to be clearly recognised in national planning policy and in development plans, and included within guidance on the development of sustainable communities. Close links also need to be established between the Rural Development Plan and the National Planning Framework for Scotland.

The Institute trusts that these comments are of assistance and has no objection to its comments being made available to the public in the usual way. Should you wish any clarification or further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at our Edinburgh office: 57 Melville Street Edinburgh, EH3 7HL phone: 0131 226 1959, or email: veronica.burbridge@rtpi.org.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veronica Burbridge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Veronica Burbridge
National Director RTPi in Scotland