



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place
cyd drefnu gofod · creu cynefin

A Guide to the Royal Town Planning Institute in Wales

RTPI Cymru

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the professional membership organisation for town and country planners in the UK and overseas. It has just over 1,000 members in Wales, and over 20,000 UK-wide.

RTPI Cymru provides tailored services to planning professionals based in Wales.

RTPI Cymru activity is managed through a Management Board, supported by the National Director and Administrative Assistant. This structure was established to create a more active, relevant and influential presence in Wales.

We believe that spatial planning plays a central leadership role in achieving a sustainable and successful Wales, and in addressing issues of climate change, social well-being and environmental protection.



Representatives of the RTPI Cymru Management Board 2008

RTPI Cymru's objectives are to:

- ensure effective and efficient governance of the Institute's activities in Wales in accordance with the principles of sustainability, equal opportunities and active member involvement;
- raise awareness and promote public understanding of positive things that planning can achieve for Wales and its people and be the Institute's voice in Wales;
- promote and disseminate knowledge and good practice in planning;
- work with the Welsh Assembly Government and others to provide Wales with an effective and appropriate strategic framework for planning;
- support the Institute's contributions to global, European and UK-wide policy making and influence.

An important underpinning principle of the work of RTPI Cymru, reflecting its charitable responsibilities, is to encourage the delivery of better planning policies which support wider public interests.

At a UK level, RTPI Cymru is represented on the RTPI's General Assembly, committees and panels.



Planning in Wales

The establishment of the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government, with devolved responsibility for planning, means that Wales has developed its own planning agenda and one that is increasingly divergent. This includes the impact of Planning Policy Wales, the development of the Local Development Plan (LDP) system and primary legislation powers under the Government of Wales Act 2006.

Wales has its own national Spatial Plan - People, Places, Futures - and its own Sustainable Development Scheme, adding to the distinctive flavour of planning. The Assembly Government is responsible for conducting its own research and consultations and for a wide range of secondary legislation, as well as inputting into UK Government legislation on non-devolved matters.

Wales is a bilingual country with 28% of the population able to speak, read and / or write Welsh. Public bodies, and increasingly the private and voluntary sector, are expected and encouraged to communicate bilingually. Planning services and policies need to respond to this, adding an additional variation to planning in Wales from other parts of the UK.

The geography and population distribution of Wales is reflected in the location of our members, with roughly 55% in South East Wales, 20% in South West Wales, 20% in North Wales and 5% in Mid Wales.

RTPI Membership in Wales

Corporate	733
Associates	3
Technical	8
Licentiates	58
Students	112
Retired	98

Spring 2008

Policy

To reflect the distinctiveness of Welsh planning policy and systems, RTPI Cymru has its own Policy and Research Forum. The Forum is made up of members from across Wales working in different sectors, equipping the Forum with a range of specialist knowledge. The Forum's aim is to provide a lead on the development of planning and related policy and identify research to support this.

The Forum welcomes contributions from members in Wales to its policy-thinking. A good example of this is the consultation on the Wales Spatial Plan Update, where discussions at workshops in Cardiff and Bangor, attended by more than 100 planners, were used to inform the development of the Forum's own consultation response.

All of the Forum's responses to consultations can be found on the RTPI Cymru web pages.



Wales Spatial Consultation Workshop for planners, Cardiff

Joint Working

RTPI Cymru recognises the importance of partnership in delivering its objectives, and actively works closely with organisations in Wales, including the Assembly Government, the Design Commission for Wales, Planning Aid Wales and the Planning Officers' Society Wales (POSW), as well as others.



The Senedd, photo courtesy of National Assembly for Wales

Whilst the majority of planners working in Wales are employed in the public sector (around 57%), those working in the private sector (21% of members) are also important, as are those in working in other organisations. RTPI Cymru is keen to work with both private and public agencies, as well as charitable and academic organisations, to deliver activities and meet the needs of all planners in Wales.



The Regeneration Skills Collective Wales (RSCW) promotes increased inter-professional working. RTPI Cymru is one of six members, along with the Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru (CIH Cymru); the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE); Landscape

Institute Wales (LIW); the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Wales (RICS Wales); and the Royal Society of Architects in Wales (RSAW), who work together to hold joint events and projects, encouraging crossprofessional understanding.

Activities

RTPI Cymru delivers a range of CPD activities across Wales, many in partnership with other bodies, to provide a range of options for members. The Institute holds three regular profile events in Wales each year, including the Annual Dinner, the AGM which includes an address on a topical subject, and from 2008, an annual all-Wales conference.

RTPI Cymru recognises that it is important to communicate with and between members. There are dedicated pages on the RTPI's website, which include regularly updated news about events and policy. Cynllunio, the quarterly newsletter of RTPI Cymru, which is sent to every member in Wales, includes news and features. Contributions from members are particularly encouraged to share experiences and views of issues and projects.

The Wales Planning Awards are run each year to recognise, applaud and publicise examples of good planning practice in Wales and are presented at the Annual Dinner. In 2007, the winner was Galeri Creative Enterprise Centre in Caernarfon.



Owain Wyn presents the 2007 Wales Planning Award to Gwyn Roberts of Galeri Caernarfon Cyf



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Types of RTPI Membership

Chartered Members – professionals with approved graduate-level planning qualifications and at least two years of relevant planning experience.

Technical Members – skilled and experienced enforcement, technical or administrative planning staff engaged in key spatial planning activities but not eligible for Chartered Membership.

Legal Associate Members – qualified legal practitioners specialising in, or with extensive experience of, planning law, who are not eligible for Chartered Membership.

Associate Members – professionals involved in spatial planning, who do not hold an RTPI accredited qualification and/or who are not eligible for Chartered Membership.

Licentiate Members – graduates of RTPI-accredited courses who are in professional spatial planning employment and would like to work towards Chartered Membership through the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) route.

Student Members – full-time or part-time students and/or employed planning graduates who are currently not eligible for any other class of membership.

Free Members - final year students on RTPI accredited courses.

More information on becoming a Member is available on the RTPI website at:
www.rtpi.org.uk