

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	Q1 Progress
Develop a Marketing Strategy to build membership and activities	NM in conjunction with Networks Team	Marketing Strategy against which to monitor progress	April 2008	<p>In common with the other Networks, no specific strategy document has been produced but the range of actions to widen awareness of the value of PIPA have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operative working with the Planning Officers Society • a series of articles in Planning, including a contribution to the Networks' series on Climate Change • a presentation to the RTPI General Assembly • an advertisement in Councillor magazine • an article in Welsh Planning and one to follow in Scottish Planning • attendance at the Labour




				<p>and Conservative Local Government Spring Conferences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attendance at the NALC Annual Conference • contributing a Workshop at the Planning Convention • adding a Scottish Conference to the UK one <p>😊</p>
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	<p>Survey completed, analysed and discussed with Core Group; review of 2008 Action Plan in hand</p> <p>😊</p>
Host a reception at the Elected Members' Summer School	NM	Raise awareness of the Network	September 2008	<p>TCPA will host Reception 2008; 'fringe' event arranged to provide an introduction to PIPA for Elected Member attendees</p> <p>😊</p>

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	Q1 Progress
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	<p>PIPA led the organisation of a Networks' event on the Planning Bill which was well attended and made positive contributions to the RTPI Policy positions on the Bill</p> <p>😊</p>
To offer in each UK nation across 2 years a Conference of the style which re-launched PIPA in 2007	NM advised by CG	A well informed and represented membership	2008: England + Scotland	<p>Scotland event in hand for 21st June</p> <p>England/UK event in hand for 11th October</p> <p>😊</p>
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	<p>New topics have been added but, to date, this has not increased rates of participation.</p> <p>😊</p>

Provide a sounding board to develop and improve democratic planning practice

Action	By Whom	Outcomes	When	Q1 Progress
To develop a voice on the topic of 'the status of planning' to press: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chartered status 	NM advised by CG	A more focussed engagement with members	To build up to the 2008 PIPA Conferences	<p>Commenced with awareness raising through the Planning Officers Society; will develop through PIPA contributions to the RTPI Submission to the</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of planning The status of the Chief Planning Officer within the local authority The need to increase the numbers of qualified planners 				<p>new 'Pretty Review' and the promotion of the two Conferences for 2008.</p> 
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	<p>A particular topic for Policy engagement in Q1 has been the Local Member Review Body proposal</p> <p>PIPA members also contributed content for the RTPI submission to the CLG Committee on Skills</p> 
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	<p>As agreed by the Core Group we will build engagement by inviting participation by other organisations providing speakers for the PIPA Conferences.</p> 

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	Q1 Progress
Provide media representation through Media Ambassadors initiative	CG	To respond positively to all opportunities for publicity	On-going throughout 2008	<p>Q1 Chair of Core Group provided a statement for RTPI Statement on Local Member Review Bodies.</p> <p>Additionally, Planning articles have been published.</p> 
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	<p>'Useful links' and 'RTPI Publications' for politicians in planning have been added, alongside the expanding content in the Discussion Forum and the accumulating 'events' content.</p> 

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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