

## PIPA - the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Business Plan 2009

### Aim of the Network

Politicians are at the core of a democratic planning system. PIPA aims to support co-operative working between professionals and politicians to achieve the most effective planning outcomes. 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.

### Key objectives of the Network

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

### Actions

***Objective one: Raising the profile and understanding of professional planning amongst people who are engaged in planning from a political perspective***

Action	When	Resources required
Have in place for 2009 a programme of UK-wide initiatives and activities, including contributions to Planning magazine, that will widen awareness and help to build membership	Dec 2008	Network fliers. Support from magazine editors and Members. NM co-ordination and contributions
Develop the circulation of the Quarterly PIPA Bulletin sent to national and regional people with a political interest in planning, in conjunction with RTPI communications staff.	March 2009	NM co-ordination
Carry out a Member survey during 2009 to gauge levels of satisfaction and potential content for the Business Plan 2010	March 2009	Access to Survey Monkey or similar
Set up targeted task groups based on feedback from the member survey	May 2009	Members volunteering to attend set-up meetings; NM co-ordination and contributions.
Host a Workshop at the Planning Convention 2009	June 2009	Network banner and fliers; place for NM and Workshop contributors
Host a reception at the Elected Members' Summer School	September 2009	Network banner and fliers; place for NM
In conjunction with local Members and Planning Aid, have a presence at Party Conferences and other appropriate events	As per 2009 programme	Network banner and fliers; place for NM

**Objective two: Providing a vehicle for all those involved in democratic planning to come together to build knowledge and exchange information and experiences**

Action	When	Resources required
To offer at a regional or sub-regional level a series of Network-led events that might widen awareness by bringing Councillors together	Quarterly	Members host events, providing venue and refreshments; NM setting-up
To offer in each UK nation on a 2 year cycle a Conference of the style which re-launched PIPA in 2007	2009: England (London?) + Wales	Sponsorship of up to £15,000 to be sought from PAS and Welsh Assembly Government. Network banner and fliers; NM time and co-ordination
Enable relevant topics to be debated through the website Discussion Forum	New topics introduced fortnightly	NM time

**Objective three: Provide a sounding board to develop and improve democratic planning practice**

Action	When	Resources required
Conduct a survey of each Local Authority Lead Councillor for Planning around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The status of the Chief Planning Officer within the local authority</li> <li>The need to increase the numbers of qualified planners</li> </ul>	Feb 2009	Database of target group; admin support
Set up a targeted task group on the basis of the feedback from the Local Authority survey	April 2009	Members volunteering to attend set-up meetings; NM co-ordination and contributions.
Provide intelligence to the RTPi Policy Staff by identifying forthcoming issues and arranging joint activities as appropriate	On-going throughout 2009	Member contributions; NM co-ordination
Build co-operation with other organisations with shared interests by inviting their contributions to/participation in events whilst avoiding duplication	On-going throughout 2009	Member contributions; NM co-ordination

**Objective four: Providing a 'one stop shop' signposting service of professional planning information for all those involved in democratic planning within the UK**

Action	When	Resources required
Populate the website with comprehensive resources adding a new information topic each month.	Monthly	Member contributions; Sift co-operation and IT support as required
In conjunction with Members and Planning Aid, to contribute Planning 'Surgeries' at Conferences and other appropriate events	As per 2009 programme	Network banner and fliers; place for NM

**Additional resources required**

- 11.5 hours per week of professional staff time.
- £500 financial resources for member expenses

## **Prospects**

PIPA will play a major role in the RTPI's aim to put planning at the heart of local government. PIPA will continue to build relationships with the key politicians in planning to raise its profile and co-operation with professionals. 2010 or thereabouts can be expected to be an election year and through its Members PIPA can help to ensure a priority for planning issues in manifesto commitments.

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