

PIPA the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Core Group Meeting on 6th March 2008	
	Action
Present:	
Cllr Mike Roberts (Chair)	
Ashis Choudhury	
Cllr Brian O'Hare	
Trevor Roberts	
Andrew Matheson (Network Manager)	
Apologies had been received from:	
Cllr Maryse Iles	
1. Minutes of the Meeting on 6th December 2007	
The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.	
Action points from the Minutes:	
2 Audit of other organisations – <i>as noted under the Conferences item, the way forward seems to be to invite their involvement in the Conference sessions.</i>	
3 Planning Convention 2008 – <i>Trevor Roberts had kindly provided a number of suggestions</i>	
4 The legislative programme – <i>a Networks meeting on the Planning Bill had been held and an offer around the Householder Consents regime would be offered once progress was clearer</i>	
5 Network Events – <i>joint event with Planning with Communities Network in hand</i>	
6 Fire Regulations – <i>noted by Policy Team</i>	
2. The Planning Convention July 2008	
The Workshop to be organised by PIPA would be within the Political change theme on Friday 11 th July and although Cllr Antrobus of Salford MBC had agreed to participate he was unable to do so on the Friday. Trevor made a number of other suggestions for participants that will be followed up.	AM
RTPI East of England Conference for Planning Councillors October 2008: Trevor agreed that if he was in the locality he would be willing to attend and make the PIPA presentation; if this was not possible, Maryse would be local and may be willing to speak if asked.	AM
3. PIPA Conferences 2008	
The two early-draft Programmes with some suggested speakers were noted.	
Scotland in June:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was felt that local collaboration was less likely to be relevant in Scotland where most authorities cover large geographic areas • Trevor noted that not all local authorities in Scotland were now represented on COSLA, making their bona fides less universal • It was felt that the Effective Practice item needed to be explicitly relevant in the Scottish context or replaced • Urban Design might be added and led by Edinburgh Councillors 	

<p>Manchester in October:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that there may be some confusion about the nature of 'Urban Vision' in Salford, which is an outsourcing arrangement rather than a regeneration initiative • There was an absence of content around use of Section 106 powers and public/private cooperation • It was suggested that Urban Slash could present interestingly on place-making • There was a lengthy discussion about the value of including a GLA speaker because of the unique status held by the GLA within the UK; but it was agreed that specific initiatives could be enlightening • A generic interest from Councillors might be around 'What we want from planning'. 	AM
<p>4. PIPA Principals</p>	
<p>Some members queried whether there was sufficient clarity of purpose in such an initiative and others wondered whether the proposed invitee list had been drawn too narrowly with, for instance, LGA leaders omitted. Also noted as absent were John Gummer MP and Lord Richard Best. It was also noted that much of the 'membership' would be transient and this might make for administrative difficulties.</p>	
<p>Mike noted that there was no particular urgency to proceed with the initiative and that members could ponder the pros and cons and we would return to the topic at the next meeting. Meanwhile Andrew would research the range of All-party Parliamentary Committees that might be relevant and note the names of their Chairs and Vice-chairs.</p>	ALL AM
<p>5. PIPA Member Survey 2008</p>	
<p>The survey results were noted as pleasing and the level of response not unreasonable for this type of survey – Andrew confirmed that the PIPA response was comparable with the experience of the other Networks. Members felt that the survey showed that we were still at the stage of 'trying things out', learning from an expanding membership and getting the best balance between Bulletin and website content merited further experimentation.</p> <p>It was felt that there would be willing host 'volunteers' and a good level of interest in regionally hosted 'learning from each other' local authority events, around an 11am-3pm timetable. This might initially be used to 'compensate' those that would have the furthest travel distances to attend the national PIPA Conference.</p> <p>It was felt that the on-line Discussion Forum was not a natural debating medium for most Councillors.</p>	
<p>6. Any issues arising from:</p>	
<p>Networks Joint Meeting on the Planning Bill</p>	
<p>The Group expressed a concern that the RTPI might not be pressing hard enough for important amendments to the published Bill. Andrew commented that those attending the Networks meeting would not have gained that impression. A note arising from the meeting would shortly be posted on the website.</p>	AM
<p>Attendance at the Labour & Conservative Spring Conferences</p>	

Mike and Andrew confirmed that these attendances had been valuable in raising the profile of the RTPi, PIPA and Planning Aid amongst Ministers and Councillors. Andrew estimated that membership had increased by roughly 15 in the immediate wake of the events.	
The Democratic Case for Regionalism	
The Minister's statement as circulated was noted – and it was also noted that the Minister had visited the RTPi stand during the Spring Conference.	
Q4 Progress with 2007 Business Plan	
The Report was noted.	
PIPA Series 'A Politicians View' in 'Planning'	
It was noted that 2 articles had now appeared, Maryse's being the latest one. An article from a Welsh Assembly Member would be published next week.	
Networks Series on Climate Change in 'Planning'	
Mike's contribution on behalf of PIPA would be appearing later in March.	
7. Any other Business	
There was none.	
8. Dates of Next Meetings	
The remaining programme of meetings for 2008 is: Wednesday 4 th June 2008 (<i>note this is a revised date</i>) Thursday 4 th September 2008 Thursday 27 th November 2008	ALL to note