

**PIPA the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Core Group  
Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

	Action
<b>Present:</b>	
Cllr Mike Roberts (Chair)	
Ashis Choudhury	
Cllr Maryse Iles	
Trevor Roberts	
Andrew Matheson (Network Manager)	
<b>Apologies had been received from:</b>	
Cllr Brian O'Hare	
Maryse introduced her colleague Cllr Bill Sharp. Maryse noted that a new business was taking a great deal of her time and she felt that Bill would be able to make more input into the Core Group. She therefore tendered her resignation. Mike thanked Maryse for her contribution and welcomed Bill Sharp to the Group.	
<b>1. Minutes of the Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008</b>	
The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.	
Action points from the Minutes:	
2 Planning Convention: <i>Cllr Mike Breakell had agreed to lead the workshop session</i>	
2 RTPI East of England Conference: <i>Trevor Roberts had agreed to make the presentation at this event</i>	
4 Manchester Conference: <i>a revised draft programme was on the Agenda</i>	
5 PIPA Principals: <i>to be returned to at a later date</i>	
6 Planning Bill: <i>the RTPI response had been submitted</i>	
<b>2. Update on PIPA Conferences 2008</b>	
Glasgow Conference: The Programme was now 95% complete the main uncertainty being the session on Climate Change where the Scottish Sustainability Network was still attempting to locate a suitable speaker. Members made a number of suggestions and offers of assistance which will be followed up as needed.	AM
Manchester Conference: It was noted that the new CLG Chief Planner and the Head of the Planning Inspectorate had agreed to make Conference presentations. The Group was pleased with the strong programme now on offer. All Core Group members indicated their intention to attend the event. The September meeting could be used to address any final adjustments.	
2009: There was also a discussion about the value of holding a PIPA event in London either as the venue for the 2009 UK Conference or for a London event equivalent to the nations' events being offered. Particularly in view of the change of Mayor there may be renewed interest in the London planning agenda and possible topics for coverage could include:	

Olympic legacy; Thames Gateway; Crossrail; Heathrow infrastructure needs; Review of Green belt; how to deliver affordable housing needs in times of credit crisis. When firming up plans for 2009 we will decide which option to take.	AM/MR
<b>3. PIPA Action Plan 2008/9</b>	
Particularly helped by Bill, the new member, the Group had an extensive discussion of its purposes and ambitions, noting the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the heart of the Group's remit are the democratic structures and procedures that pertain to the successful delivery of spatial planning at all levels</li> <li>• Planning Councillors have roles that are distinct from general Councillor roles and these need both to be understood and trained for to assure confident application</li> <li>• Aligned to this are the particular nature of successful officer/members relationships and the nature of the boundaries that use their respective skills to greatest advantage</li> <li>• It was noted that over time traditional boundaries have shifted markedly under pressures to deliver a speedier service but this may have been to the detriment of democratic accountability</li> <li>• The Group brings politicians' eyes to the RTPIs reviews and challenges of planning policies and of the levels at which these are determined</li> <li>• Over the coming twelve months priority PIPA concerns will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The implementation of the Major Infrastructure.....</li> <li>○ The democratic implications of the Sub-national Review</li> <li>○ The integration of climate change issues across all planning policies</li> <li>○ The progressing of the Planning Bill and Local Member Review Bodies in particular</li> <li>○ The implications of the credit crisis for the delivery of affordable housing</li> <li>○ Eco-towns and their democratic delivery</li> <li>○ Community engagement</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Andrew would redraft the current Action Plan and re-circulate for any further comments</li> </ul>	AM
<b>4. PIPA website</b>	
The prospective changes were noted and members agreed to advise Andrew of content ideas as they occurred.	ALL
<b>5. Any issues arising from:</b>	
<b>Attendance at NALC Annual Conference 2008</b>	
Andrew reported on his attendance at this 3 day event and noted that the primary interest had been in the RTPI's offer of Planning Aid. Many Parish/Town Councils clearly felt disenfranchised from the planning system and this was agreed to be an opportunity lost in terms of community engagement. Working with Planning Aid, NALC and the Society of Local Council Clerks good practice could be spread more widely but PIPA's role would probably be a facilitating rather than a primary role.	
<b>Networks Joint Meeting on Eco-towns</b>	
Andrew agreed to circulate the notes of this event. He also drew attention to	AM

the article in Planning by Rynd Smith which outlined the questions that the RTPI was likely to be raising in response to the current Consultation and prior to the issuing of a PPS document expected in the summer.	
<b>Prospective Further Legislation</b>	
The circulated list was noted.	
<b>Q1 Progress with 2008 Business Plan</b>	
The Report was noted with satisfaction with the progress achieved.	
<b>6. Any other Business</b>	
There was none.	
<b>7. Dates of Next Meetings</b>	
The remaining programme of meetings for 2008 is: Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2008 Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2008	ALL to note