



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Bulletin 20th July 2009

Welcome

All PIPA Bulletins, including this edition, can be viewed as an Adobe pdf document using [this link](#) provided you have registered on the RTPI website. *If this email has been forwarded to you, you can take up free PIPA membership for yourself by signing up on the [PIPA website](#) or email pipa@rtpi.org.uk*

Topics beyond 'PIPA News' for you to dip into in this edition:

(click on the heading below to take you to a chosen topic, click on the main topic heading there to return ↑)

Planning System: [Eco Towns](#); [IPC](#); [In Scotland](#); [English Framework?](#); [Planning Obligations](#); [For Homes](#); [Great Expectations](#); [Minor Material](#); [Gypsy Policy](#); **Local Democracy:** [Coastal communities](#); [Market Towns](#); [Unitaries](#); [Regions?](#);
Sustainability: [Green Strategies](#); [Manifesto](#); [Climate Projections](#); **Training:** [Summer School](#); **Consultations:** [England](#); [Northern Ireland](#); **Events**; **Websites**; **Publications**

PIPA News

SEVEN COMMITMENTS

The RTPI has made [seven commitments on Climate Change](#) that are supported by a living and continuously improved action plan that will deliver practical outcomes, benefiting communities at the global and the local scale. There are many opportunities for partners and Members to become involved, as the actions are developed over the coming months.

PIPA CONFERENCE 2009

Bookings are now being taken via this link for the 2009 Conference which is again, thanks to sponsorship from PAS, offered free of charge. The Conference will be in London on Saturday 31st October and a full programme addressing the issues related to 'Planning: delivering for the upturn' will be on offer. An invitation will be sent to every Local Authority in England but Councillors from across the UK are very welcome to attend.

PIPA AT THE PLANNING CONVENTION 2009

For 2009 PIPA offered delegates a discussion under the title 'Does recession mean sell-out? - maintaining quality in a cold climate'. The discussion was started by Cllr Clare Denman (Crawley BC) and Cllr Alastair Moss (LB Westminster); the session has been summarised and you can read the summary and add your further contributions via [this link](#).

NETWORKS EVENTS:

[How can planning aid successful regeneration?](#) – Thursday 30th July, Chester

The relationship between planning and regeneration has evolved considerably during the last decade. Changes in policy and legislation requires planning to work in wide range of multidisciplinary and community settings taking into account a broader range of both physical and social effects. Hosted by the University of Chester for the RTPI [Regeneration Network](#), this short, free event aims to give you an overview of some of the ways in which planning is central to successful broader regeneration.

Section 106 Agreements - Time for Review?

Following on from the well-supported meetings in Bristol, London & Tunbridge Wells a further meeting has now been arranged in [Grantham on Monday 14th September](#) (use the link for full details and to book). Thanks to PIPA Member Cllr Alan Parkin for helping to arrange this event.

REMINDER: INTERESTED IN HERITAGE?

The [Heritage Interest Group](#), within the family of RTPI Networks, is looking to expand its activities. If you have an interest in planning for urban or rural heritage then we would be most grateful if you would complete a very brief survey, [click here](#), to help scope the benefits from and activities for the Group, to ensure that it is relevant and active across the UK. And please pass the details to anyone else you know that shares the interest. Many thanks.

RTPI NETWORK OF THE MONTH - JULY

[The Rural Planning Network](#)

This is a forum for those with an interest in rural issues, including the provision of housing.

SECRETARY GENERAL TO LEAVE RTPI FOR NEW APPOINTMENT

Robert Upton, Secretary-General of the RTPI, [has announced](#) he will be leaving the organisation to take up a new appointment as one of two Deputy Chairs of the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). Robert, who has led the RTPI for

the past 13 years, is a preferred candidate of the CLG for the position. His appointment is subject to a pre-appointment scrutiny hearing of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee.

APOLOGIES

My apologies that commitments to the Planning Convention closely followed by my holiday meant that there has been an extended gap since the last Bulletin.

Andrew

Planning System↑

Eco Towns

The RTPI has welcomed the announcement of [a new Planning Policy Statement for Eco Towns](#) and a raft of related green development initiatives which represent a significant effort by Government to respond to concerns raised by the planning and development sectors and local communities alike. But the RTPI is concerned that measures to monitor and manage transport-related carbon emissions still lack rigour. [Eco-towns: Location decision statement](#) provides the rationale for the locations listed in the Policy Statement as those with the potential for an eco-town.

[The HCA](#) added a welcome “as a vital step forward in tackling the effects of climate change and leading the sector in its response”.

[Building](#) examines ‘Just how did the clever idea of a showcase for building green communities turn into a policy exercise of such embarrassment?’

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Sir Michael Pitt, the Chair of the new Commission which will start work in the autumn, has spoken to Peter Hetherington of The Guardian about his enthusiasm for the new body: "One of the big advantages of the IPC is that all interests, objectors, local authorities will get a better deal. It will be much easier for them to make their case for and against an application, and for that to be heard by Commissioners at open hearings.....". Housing and Planning Minister John Healey has announced a [detailed timetable for the implementation of the new planning regime for major infrastructure projects](#).

In Scotland

The National Planning Framework for Scotland 2 has been published and guides Scotland's development to 2030, setting out strategic development priorities to support the Scottish Government's central purpose – sustainable economic growth.

English Spatial Planning Framework?

The RTPI has agreed with the CBI that Government must take speedy action on putting in place National Policy Statements but the RTPI is also concerned that these relate adequately to each other – so it argues that a National Spatial Planning Framework is needed to do this – such as the ones adopted in Scotland & Wales.

Investment and planning obligations: responding to the downturn

Based on existing policy guidance this Homes & Communities Agency guidance suggests recommendations for maintaining more affordable housing from planning permissions and associated S106 obligations alongside HCA investment.

Planning for Homes

The RTPI welcomed the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee report [“Planning for Homes: Speeding up planning applications for major housing developments in England”](#) which argues that crude 13 week decision targets for the determination of planning applications can have perverse effects. The RTPI has been observing these effects for some time and has worked to develop a new outcome based approach to measuring planning services – ensuring that they deliver good places for communities in a timely and efficient manner, not just quick schemes.

Great Expectations

The Chartered Institute of Housing has published a booklet under this title addressing the management of land supply for the delivery of affordable housing. The report calls for the market downturn to be used to explore and promote new ideas for models to develop affordable housing which are sustainable and can help avoid counter cyclical downturns.

Minor Material

Proposals for an improved regime for dealing with minor material changes to planning permissions have been recommended by consultants in a report commissioned by CLG in the wake of the Killian Pretty Review.

Progress Report on Gypsy and Traveller Policy

This publication provides an overview of Government policy on increasing site provision and measures available to address unauthorised encampment and development.

Local Democracy↑

Coastal communities

These will get new planning powers to help their local economy and tourist industry, Housing and Planning Minister John Healey has announced; see also [Consultations](#) below.

[Market Towns](#)

The Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum has published research into the effect of the recession on the high streets of the Forum's 16 member towns.

[Unitaries](#)

The CLG has set out the approach the Secretary of State intends to adopt for taking statutory decisions in relation to any proposals received for unitary local government in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk.

[Do regions matter?](#)

Speech by Minister for Local Government Rosie Winterton to the LGIU Conference.

[Sustainability](#) ↑

[Green Strategies](#)

The Government has stressed that the new-look regional strategies must contain ambitious targets for renewable power and low-carbon energy development.

[From Kyoto to Kettering, Copenhagen to Croydon](#)

The local government manifesto for building low-carbon communities asserts that local authorities have an absolutely crucial and pivotal role in tackling climate change. The new manifesto sets out the framework – and specific policies – needed to enable local government to develop low carbon communities.

[UK Climate Projections 2009](#)

The Chief Planner wrote to all English local authorities advising on the publication of the UK Climate Projections 2009 and to set out their implications for the planning process.

[Training](#) ↑

[Planning Summer School 2009](#)

There will be two Summer Schools in 2009 in Exeter; each School offers an in-depth engagement with current planning issues across 4 days, one for elected members and the other for officers.

[Consultations](#) ↑

England

[Greater Flexibility for Planning Permissions](#)

This consultation seeks views on whether to introduce a mechanism for extending the time limits for implementation of existing planning permissions and on how to implement the procedure for making non-material amendments.

Deadline for responses: Thursday 13th August

[A sustainable future for transport - Towards an integrated, technology-led and user-friendly system](#)

Ideas put forward in this EU Communication are intended to stimulate debate and encourage policy options to be identified that will lead to the formulation of concrete proposals for the next EU Transport White Paper, expected towards the end of 2010. **Deadline for responses: Monday 7th September**

[Urban Development Corporations' Quinquennial Review](#)

The principal purpose of this Consultation is to determine whether the UDCs continue to be needed, if so what aspects of their operation could be improved. **Deadline for responses: Friday 18th September**

[Adapting to Climate Change: Ensuring progress in key sectors - the adaptation reporting power in the Climate Change Act 2008](#)

This Defra consultation seeks views on the proposed use of the adaptation reporting power, which gives the Government the power to ask public sector organisations and statutory undertakers to report on their assessment of the risks climate change poses to them and the actions they are going to take in response. **Deadline for responses: Friday 18th September**

[Coastal Change Policy](#)

This Defra consultation sets out our ideas for how coastal communities can successfully adapt to the impacts of coastal change, and Government's role in supporting this. **Deadline for responses: Friday 25th September**

[Planning Act 2008: Examination procedures for nationally significant infrastructure projects](#)

Consultation on the third package of statutory instruments to implement the Planning Act 2008. This concentrates on the procedures which must be gone through during the examination and decision phases.

Deadline for responses: Monday 5th October

[Building a Society for All Ages](#)

This consultation seeks views on the Government's ageing strategy, which sets out a vision for a society where people should no longer be defined by their age but where their skills and experiences are harnessed for the benefit of Britain as a whole.

Chapter 8 directly relates to planning. **Deadline for responses: Monday 12th October**

[Eco-towns: Draft Planning Policy Statement - summary of consultation responses](#)

Provides a summary of the responses and the Government's response.

[Summary of Responses to Consultation on Definition of Zero Carbon Homes and Non-Domestic Buildings](#)

Summary of the responses to the December 2008 consultation.

Northern Ireland

[The Planning System in Northern Ireland](#)

The wide-ranging proposals outlined in the consultation paper, which will impact on almost every aspect of the planning system, combined with the transfer of responsibility for the majority of the functions to local Councils in 2011, represent the most far-reaching changes to the planning system in over 30 years. **Deadline for responses: Friday 2nd October**

[NIHE Draft Corporate and Business Plan](#)

The Housing Executive's Draft Corporate and Business Plan 2009/2010 to 2011/2012 is now open for consultation.

Deadline for responses: no closing date given

[Events](#)↑

Retail Development in historic towns: time for reflection? Wednesday 23rd & Thursday 24 September, York

[Putting Place Shaping at the Heart of the Corporate Agenda – Friday 25th September, Blackpool](#)

This RTPI NW event will provide the essential understanding of 'place shaping' that will help planning Councillors stay ahead of the game. Use the link in the title or phone Beverley Watson on [0161 969 3815](tel:01619693815)

[Beyond the Recession – Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th October, Melton Mowbray](#)

This is the theme of the Action for Market Towns National Convention The AMT has joined with the Rural Services Network to offer a Convention which will both look at practical steps which towns can take to get through the recession and prepare for the upturn. Use the link in the title or phone Anne Buchanan on [01633 411732](tel:01633411732)

[An Update Conference for Councillors – Tuesday 20th October, Ely](#)

This RTPI East of England Conference has been designed to support the work of established and new councillors involved in shaping the future of the settlements and landscapes of the six counties that make up the East of England. Use the link in the title or phone Tina Jessup on [01359 233408](tel:01359233408)

[Websites](#)↑

[CABE](#)

The Councillors' pages offered by the Commission for Architecture & the Built Environment.

[Heritage at Risk](#)

You can search the new English Heritage 'at risk' register.

[Publications](#)↑

[What are the implications of attitudes to economic inequality?](#)

This collection of three Viewpoints looks at attitudes towards economic inequality and how to tackle it, and the political debate around it.

[Tackling multiple deprivation in communities - considering the evidence](#)

This is a review of area-based community regeneration in Scotland, which looks at the impact of previous interventions, and future challenges.

[CLG Annual Report 2009](#)

An annual report on the activities and performance of Communities and Local Government during the 2008-09 financial year.

If at any time you wish to stop receiving the Bulletin just email me via pipa@rtpi.org.uk

**Andrew Matheson MRTPI
Network Manager**

Royal Town Planning Institute
41 Botolph Lane London EC3R 8DL
Direct line: +44(0)1789 763006 Mobile: 07971 375362
Switchboard: +44(0)20 7929 9494
www.rtpi.org.uk

Registered Charity: England No 262865 Scotland No SC037841