

PLANNING POLICY AND PRACTICE @ RTPI: 2009

PPPC09/25

1 October 2009

PLANNING TO LIVE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE: IMPLEMENTING THE SEVEN COMMITMENTS

Report by Rynd Smith, Director of Policy and Partnerships

Action:

The committee is asked to note the following update on action to implement 'Planning to Live with Climate Change' and to:

- Express interest in membership of a project group to steer project 1;
- Express interest in membership of a project group to steer project 2;
- Express interest in membership of a project group to steer project 3;
- Debate delivery models / partnerships for project 3; and
- Debate delivery models / means of practice and compendium case study QA for projects 4-6.

Introduction

1. This report records actions taken to deliver the seven commitments to flowing from 'Planning to Live with Climate Change.'

Generic actions

2. The following generic actions have been taken to raise awareness of the initiative within the membership and to commence actions to underpin project delivery.

- Each commitment in the seven commitments now has a project plan and each plan has a home page on the RTPI website. These can be found at:



- [Click here](#) to read our web resident action plan to **promote behavioural change**.



- [Click here](#) to read our web resident action plan to **adapt existing places**.



- [Click here](#) to read our web resident action plan to **deliver climate change responsive legislation and policies.**



- [Click here](#) to read our web resident action plan to **improve current practice.**



- [Click here](#) to read our web resident action plan to **celebrate best practice.**



- [Click here](#) to read our web resident action plan to **develop a compendium of best practice.**



- [Click here](#) to read our web resident action plan to **develop climate change education and skills.**

- Copies of the project plans can be accessed by following the click-links above and the plans will also be shown on the screen in the meeting.
- Regions and Nations Panel has considered a report on the initiative enabling regions and nations to frame the actions that they will take within the projects flowing from each of the 7 Commitments. A copy of the paper is attached (Appendix 1).
- Networks are appointing 'Climate Change Champions': individuals with strengths in climate change response related policy and practice and in the expert field of knowledge of the individual networks. It is intended that these champions will add to the RTPPI's capacity to field technical questions and develop policy and practice positions on climate change. [Click here](#) to see an example of a network with an appointed 'Champion'.
- Networks and Nations web-pages host seven commitments locations where individual activities to meet the commitments are recorded and disseminated.

Project actions in the Policy and Partnerships Directorate: projects 1 – 6

Project 1: promote behavioural change

3. This project is currently at Phase 1 at which the following actions must be delivered.
 - Form project management group
 - Identify sources of and approaches to carbon/energy objectives targets relevant to plan making and development management
 - Identify initial portfolio of techniques and tools from GA consultation response
 - Characterise by function (plan making/development management)
 - Discuss scope with CLG/DECC/Nations governments and relevant agencies
4. **Expressions of interest are sought from PPPC members to form the project management group.** The group will liaise virtually to form the project brief for detailed delivery and discuss it with key stakeholders.

Project 2: adapt existing places

5. This project is currently at Phase 1 at which the following actions must be delivered.
 - Form project management group
 - Identify means whereby planning can develop approaches to adapt existing buildings and places
 - Identify initial portfolio of techniques and tools from GA consultation response
 - Characterise by function (plan making/development management/effective community engagement)
 - Discuss scope with CLG/DECC/Nations governments and relevant agencies
6. **Expressions of interest are sought from PPPC members to form the project management group.** The group will liaise virtually to form the project brief for detailed delivery and discuss it with key stakeholders.

Project 3: deliver climate change responsive legislation and policies

7. This project is currently at Phase 1 at which the following actions must be delivered.
 - Form project management group
 - Literature/source review of existing materials/target legislation and policy
8. **Expressions of interest are sought from PPPC members to form the project management group.** The group will liaise virtually to form the project brief for detailed delivery and discuss it with key stakeholders.
9. Strong initial interest has been expressed in this project by the CPRE who have initially proposed the concept of a joint 'Commission' to deliver this project. To be successful, a commission would need to be populated with key policy thinkers representing the RTPI and stakeholders in the planning system representing communities, business and environmental interests – notionally the RTPI / CLG / CABE / Natural England / Environment Agency; CBI / HBF / BPF and CPRE / RSPB.
10. Two significant issues emerge about this style of delivery:
 - Do we wish to deliver Project 3 as an RTPI product, providing a clear vision from the RTPI to government of the climate change legislation and policies that we consider should be changed, or do we want to proceed from the potential weight of a joint vision?
 - A commission as envisaged by CPRE would entail the payment of honoraria to 'Commissioners'. CABE have been approached as potential funders and have expressed concern about this funding model. In the current economic circumstances, RTPI will not be able to prioritise a budget to fund such a model.
11. **Members' views are sought on these issues bearing on the delivery model.**

***Project 4: improve current practice &
Project 6: develop a compendium of best practice***

12. Sarah Lewis (Practice Officer) has been appointed to co-ordinate Projects 4 and 6 jointly. Phase 2 of Project 4 (brief development and gathering of practice examples) is currently underway and a revised project plan will shortly be produced.
13. Project 6 is being structured as a means of holding case studies generated through the General Assembly consultation and debate phase of 'Planning to Live With Climate Change', together with the outcomes from Projects 4 and 5.
14. An appraisal of software to support the web presentation of the Project 6 compendium is underway. This includes use of the existing RTPi web authoring software and use of the RTPi library catalogue software which can potentially deliver improved subject / key word searchability in a compendium. However, the likely leading software option is to use 'MediaWiki', the software that underpins the development of the online encyclopaedia Wikipedia. (If you are not familiar with this software, [click here](#) to view and search Wikipedia.)
15. The software is free shareware and has the benefit of enabling planning stakeholders to search a compendium in the way that they can search Wikipedia. They will also be able to develop new topics and form a user community around the compendium.
16. If such an approach is used, a clear means of distinguishing content that has undergone some form of RTPi Quality Assurance will be required – for example an RTPi practice quality assurance panel could be established and a QA'ed logo applied to relevant pages of the compendium. Case studies emerging as winners or commendations from RTPi awards (Project 5) would automatically be distinguished as RTPi QA'ed material, as would material issued by key system stakeholders issuing guidance that has been subjected to a QA/peer review process that RTPi recognises.
17. **Members views on the proposed means of project delivery and QA are sought.**

Project 5: celebrate best practice

18. Project 5 is already underway via the various RTPi awards systems.

Project actions in the Professional Services Directorate:

Project 7: develop climate change education and skills

19. Professional Services Directorate are currently implementing sub-projects to:
 - Review the RTPi's current **CPD Policy** in line with the commitment to deliver directed CPD for climate change response. This project is currently undergoing consultation with members and will be reported to ELLC in November 2009. A finalised proposal for implementation is expected in early December 2009, with implementation rolled out in 2010.
 - Review **Learning Outcomes in Initial Planning Education**. A document will be finalised and circulated to ELLC w/c 22nd November and to General Assembly, CHOPS, Partnership Boards/Panel, Learning Partners w/c 7th December.

APPENDIX 1: RNP Papers

Royal Town Planning Institute
Regions and Nations Panel
15th September 2009

RNP 09.06

Planning to Live with Climate Change

Report by Rynd Smith, Sue Percy and Charles Veal

Introduction

1. Climate Change is one of the most important challenges facing humanity. The RTPI believes that how we help to combat the impact of global warming, and how we support our members in this work, must be central to all our future activities.
2. *Planning to Live with Climate Change*, launched at the Planning Convention, is an action plan for the Institute which significantly builds on the work we are already doing. It sets out Seven Commitments to action and clearly defines what we are going to do and how. It has already been praised by ministers as an example of what needs to be done by professional bodies.
3. The Seven Commitments and *Planning to Live with Climate Change* develop the Institute's New Vision for Planning and embed Climate Change firmly at the centre of all Institute activity. The New Vision proposed that planning should be spatial, sustainable, integrative, inclusive, value-driven and action oriented.
4. What are the Seven Commitments?
 - 1 Promote behavioural change
 - 2 Adapt existing places
 - 3 Work towards responsive legislation and policies
 - 4 Improve current practice
 - 5 Celebrate best practice
 - 6 Compile a compendium of best practice
 - 7 Develop climate change education and skills
5. All parts of the RTPI have been asked to see how they can contribute to the Seven Commitments Action Plan (see attached). The Regions and Nations Panel is invited to discuss how the Regions and Nations can contribute to the Seven Commitments.

The Seven Commitments and the Regions and Nations

6. In order to help focus the debate we have a number of suggestions about the Seven Commitments
 - a. Branding – A lot of the activities of the Regions and Nations from Planning Awards to Conferences and Newsletters cross over into the Seven Commitments. For example, conferences on changing transport habits, workshops on adapting housing stock could be branded or promoted as part of the Seven Commitments. The Seven Commitments can also provide inspiration for thinking about events or theming conferences. In a similar way

the Regional and National Awards could be branded as part of the Seven Commitments (particularly Commitment No 5 : celebrate best practice).

- b. Good Practice – Several of the 7 Commitments are about building up a knowledge bank of examples of good practice (and also that which doesn't work). We will be producing templates to make it an easy, quick and consistent process to upload details of good practice onto the Climate Change Action Plan page of the RTPI website.

7. Commitment 1 – Promoting Behavioural Change

- a. Conferences and Events – Regions and Nations already run events on promoting change in the way people behave. These events could be branded as part of the Seven Commitments. Regions and Nations could also consider events based around promoting behavioural change.
- b. Public Engagement – The Regions and Nations have a great opportunity to meet with many public bodies from Civic Societies and Community Groups to a number of public engagement events on planning issues required by legislation. These events are a great opportunity to promote planning and show how the planning profession can help mitigate the effects of climate change.
- c. Good Practice – Conferences and events will produce examples of good practice in changing people's behaviour and this can form part of Commitment No 6 to compile a compendium of best practice.
- d. Chair's themes – One Regional Chair for 2010 has already suggested a theme around promoting change in transport behaviour to improve more sustainable transport. Themes for Chairs of Regions and Nations for 2010 could also be based around climate change.

8. Commitment 2 – Adapt existing places

- a. The same points as Commitment No 1 could apply to Commitment No 2 – a particular aspect of this is adapting the existing housing stock to accommodate housing needs more effectively as new housing development is only a small proportion of the total requirement.

9. Commitment 3 – Work towards responsive legislation and policies

- a. The Regions and Nations are part of the RTPI's response to legislative consultations. For the Nations, direct engagement with the relevant devolved authority is vital to ensure that climate change is part of the planning process.
- b. For the Regions, there is the opportunity to contribute to the policy responses of the RTPI and to help ensure that at the Regional level the RSSs incorporate climate change policies.

10. Commitment 4 – Improve Current Practice

- a. Conferences and Events – CPD is a key way of improving current practice. Planning to Live with Climate Change might inspire new events such as green master classes or workshops specifically on planning and climate change.

- b. Good practice – Again, contributions to the good practice guide on the website would be very useful.

11. Commitment 5 – Celebrate best practice

- a. All the Regions and Nations hold awards and many of the award categories include climate change. The awards could be branded and in addition the categories could be reviewed, as the RTPPI Planning Awards will be, to incorporate the Seven Commitments.
- b. In all awards if there is a difficulty in choosing between two schemes then climate change should be a significant measure. For example, in the community engagement awards if there are two equally worthy schemes but one has a climate change impact assessment and the other does not, then this could be used to help choose between the schemes.

12. Commitment 6 – Compile a compendium of best practice

- a. We will provide templates for examples of good practice to be uploaded onto the RTPPI website to be shared across the profession.
- b. The RTPPI is developing a wiki based internet site that will enable practitioners to upload and edit examples of good practice

13. Commitment 7 – Develop climate change education and skills

- a. Conferences and Events will be developed through the R&N programme to develop skills.

Action

- 14. Planning to Live with Climate Change and the Seven Commitments are about embedding Climate Change into everything we do as a professional institute. In the same way that the New Vision for Planning has permeated the activities of the Institute, Planning to Live with Climate Change should be integrated to become equally important.
- 15. The Regions and Nations are asked to think of ways in which Planning to Live with Climate Change can become part of the activities of the Regions and Nations. This paper has made some suggestions and we would welcome the contribution and feedback of the panel about how to take these suggestions and other ideas forward.

Actions Agreed by the Meeting

(From Charles Veal's pre minutes action list of the 15 September meeting)

- **Charles Veal** to see if PtLWCC Logo can incorporate RTPPI logo/branding more easily.
- **Charles Veal** to email PtLWCC Logo to R&N contacts
- **ALL** to incorporate Planning for Climate Change as appropriate into Regional and National Activities.
- **ALL** to circulate planning to live with Climate Change amongst RAC