



RTPI

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PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Bulletin 3rd December 2009

Welcome, particularly to the new Members joining from the 2009 Conference

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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 ↑)

[Local Democracy](#): 'easyCouncil'; City Power; Petitions; Future of LAAs; [Planning System](#): World Class; £1m Rural Fund; 5yr Land Supply; Flexibility; [Housing](#): Delivery Plans; In Scotland; Eco-towns; [Sustainability](#): Code4; Polnoon; Welsh Clarity; Biodiversity; Rural; [Consultations](#): England; Northern Ireland; Scotland; [Events](#); [Websites](#); [Publications](#)

PIPA News

COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT IN SCOTLAND

The Scottish Government is proposing [significant changes to their Code](#) to address the way in which Councillors should now take decisions on Quasi-Judicial or Regulatory Applications since the changes in the Scottish Planning System have come into effect. The revised Code addresses the number of ways a Councillor may now be required to deal with a planning decision, and has been re-structured accordingly; for example a Councillor may have to deal with a planning decision:

- as a member of a committee;
- as a member of a committee where applications are subject to a pre-determination hearing;
- as a member dealing with applications referred to the full Council and;
- as a member of the Council's Local Review Body.

The revised Code also aims to assist Councillors in their understanding of when they are entitled to express their view on a planning application.

If you are a Councillor in Scotland and believe it would be helpful for the RTPI to make a submission on this Consultation please contact me as soon as possible: andrew.matheson@rtpi.org.uk. And the approach in Scotland may be of interest to Councillors elsewhere in the UK.

PLANNING REFORM IN NORTHERN IRELAND

On 25th November PIPA contributed to a Conference in Belfast about local government reform that will see in 2011 eleven new local Councils with planning powers for the first time since 1973. The programme and presentations from this timely Conference [can be viewed via this link](#).

RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING

There is a [current CLG Consultation paper](#) seeking views on proposals to incentivise landowners to bring forward land for affordable housing in rural areas, through referral rights to the properties or retention of an interest in the land. The RTPI-CIH Planning for Housing Network in conjunction with the RTPI Rural Planning Network will be making a response to this Consultation. If you are interested in contributing to this response, and/or then perhaps joining a proposed Rural Housing Interest Group, *please contact me as soon as possible*: andrew.matheson@rtpi.org.uk

THE PLANNING CONVENTION 2010

Book now and save up to £100! "Planning: Shaping the future" will be held on 28th-30th June at the QEII Centre, London: <http://www.theplanningconvention.co.uk/>

SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS – TIME FOR REVIEW?

Another discussion, this time in Leeds, has been added to the set of events on this topic offered by the RTPI Networks. To view the issues and the presentations please see [this webpage](#).

REMINDER: INQUIRY: MINIMISING TRANSACTION COSTS IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[This All Party Urban Development Group Inquiry](#) will analyse transaction costs in urban development and make recommendations about how these can be kept at acceptable levels. To submit your views please [email the RTPI Policy Team](#) by Wednesday 9th December.

Andrew

[Local Democracy](#)↑

['John Lewis' v 'easyCouncil'](#)

The Bulletin has previously picked up on this comparison of approaches to local service delivery. The Guardian reports on a judicial review into Barnet Council's policy of providing basic core services while charging more for higher levels of provision.

[City Power](#)

Leeds and Greater Manchester City Regions will receive devolved powers over their economic recoveries and a housing and regeneration board will give them more control over how funding is spent on key projects,

[Petitions](#)

New proposals unveiled by John Denham will impose on English Councils a duty to respond to residents' petitions.

[The future of LAAs](#)

Local Government Minister Rosie Winterton delivered a speech on this subject to the LGC and NLGN Local Area Agreements Conference.

[Planning System](#)↑

[World Class Places](#)

In May this year the Government published the [World Class Places](#) strategy document setting out a strategy for improving the quality of the built environment, recognising the economic, social and environmental benefits that this can bring. An Action Plan which builds on World Class Places has now been published, setting out next steps on how the Government intends to work with its partners to deliver the ambitions set out in the strategy.

[£1m Rural Masterplanning Fund](#)

This new fund is aimed at local planning authorities in rural areas who can bid for expert assistance in preparing masterplans. The Fund, to be administered by the HCA and CABE, will help Councils work closely with local communities to develop masterplans. As a learning process it will also help identify best practice models for rural authorities. This is part on the [implementation plan for the Matthew Taylor Review](#).

[5 Year Land Supply for Housing in England](#)

Official Statistics summarising Local Planning Authorities' reported assessment of the '5 year land supply' for housing as at April 2009.

[Flexibility](#)

CLG has published guidance on the measures being taken forward following the consultation on 'Greater flexibility for planning permissions'. It covers the extension of time limits for implementing extant planning permissions, non-material amendments and minor material amendments. This has been [welcomed by the RTPi](#).

[Housing](#)↑

[Delivery Plans](#)

On the 100th anniversary of the first Planning Act, Housing Minister John Healey announced support for Councils to plan and deliver new homes and green energy projects. The first six pilot Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) for renewable energy and low carbon schemes have also been confirmed.

[In Scotland](#)

Inside Housing reports that the number of affordable homes built in Scotland reached record levels this year, according to the Scottish Government.

[English Eco-towns](#)

Housing Minister John Healey has announced proposals for a second wave of eco-towns and pledged a total of £10m to support Councils in developing their plans.

[Sustainability](#)↑

[Code 4 Housing](#)

A unique consortium of partners has been created to build innovative homes that will achieve energy level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes without relying on renewable technologies.

[Polnoon, Scotland](#)

A pioneering low-carbon community badged the 'conservation area of tomorrow' will "set new standards in urban planning in Scotland".

[Welsh Clarification](#)

Planning Portal reports that the Welsh Assembly Government has clarified its national planning policy for sustainable buildings in advance of the final technical advice in early 2010.

[Eco-towns Biodiversity worksheet](#)

'Biodiversity positive: eco-towns biodiversity worksheet', whose lead author is David Knight at Natural England, provides guidance identifying the essential steps required to ensure that Eco-town design, development and long term management result in a sustained positive outcome for biodiversity.

[Rural Communities](#)

Use of England's rural community-owned buildings has trebled since 1988, according to research undertaken by ACRE. The 9,000 halls represent the largest network of community-owned facilities in the country but they are a largely hidden aspect of community empowerment, and many have proved 'hard to reach' in efforts to support their sustainability.

[Consultations](#)↑

England

[Guidance for local authorities on incentivising landowners to bring forward additional land for rural affordable housing on rural exception sites](#)

This Consultation paper seeks views on proposals to incentivise landowners to bring forward land for affordable housing in rural areas, through referral rights to the properties or retention of an interest in the land.

Deadline for Submissions: Thursday 18th February 2010

[Listening to communities: draft statutory guidance on the duty to respond to petitions](#)

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 contains a duty on local authorities to respond to petitions. This Consultation gathers feedback on the draft statutory guidance and secondary legislation underpinning the duty.

Deadline for Submissions: Wednesday 24th February 2010

Northern Ireland

[Draft Addendum to PPS 7: Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas](#)

This draft Addendum to PPS 7 provides new planning policy provisions on the protection of local character, environmental quality and residential amenity within established residential areas, villages, and smaller settlements.

Deadline for submissions: Friday 5th March 2010

Scotland

[Consultation on the Councillors' Code of Conduct](#)

The Councillors' Code of Conduct is a key element of the ethical standards framework introduced by the Ethical Standards in Public Life. The revised Code addresses the way in which Councillors should now take decisions on Quasi-Judicial or Regulatory Applications since the changes in the Scottish Planning System have come into effect.

Deadline for Submissions: Thursday 18th February 2010

[Events](#)↑ - also available on-line via the [PIPA website](#)

[Key planning issues in 2010](#) – Friday 29th January 2010, London

This RTPI Conference will look at future changes to the planning system. Use the link in the title or phone [0845 082 1171](tel:0845 082 1171)

[Understanding developers - who they are and how they make development happen](#) – Tuesday 9th March, London

This RTPI Conferences Masterclass will provide an overview of how the development industry operates, a detailed insight into the appraisal process and the risk and profit elements. Use the link in the title or phone [0845 082 1171](tel:0845 082 1171)

[Websites](#)↑

[Neighbourhoods](#)

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has established a free website that brings together a wide range of housing and neighbourhood trends for the whole of the UK for the first time.

[Publications](#)↑

[Informing future approaches to tackling multiple deprivation in communities - beyond the Fairer Scotland Fund](#)

In January 2009, the Scottish Government commissioned research on the development and implementation of the Fairer Scotland Fund, to inform future approaches to tackling concentrated disadvantage in communities.

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

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