



RTPI

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PIPA – the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Bulletin 15th December 2009

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

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 ↑)

Local Democracy: [For Growth](#); [Economic Resilience](#); [Delegated Powers](#); [Amendment Bill](#); [Capital Bonds](#); [Empowerment](#);
Planning System: [Total Capital](#); [Flood Risk](#); [Skills Gap](#); [Ageing](#); [Peace Bridge](#); [Gypsies & Travellers](#); [Social Justice](#);
Housing: [Local Trusts](#); **Sustainability:** [City Charge](#); [One Brighton](#); [Building for Life](#); **Consultations:** [England](#); **Events**;
[Websites](#); [Publications](#)

PIPA News

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

As this is the last Bulletin to be sent before the festive break, the RTPI Networks' Team wish to send season's greetings to all Network Members. Please include making a contribution to Networks' activities one of your resolutions for the New Year!

SMALL SCALE RENEWABLES

The RTPI Development Management Network is leading the RTPI response to the following consultation: [Permitted development rights for small scale renewable and low carbon energy technologies, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure](#). If you would like to contribute your views to the response Network members can download a response form [here](#) or [e-mail the Network](#) for a copy of the response form (with consultation questions set out). Contributions to the response need to be sent to the [Network](#) by the Tuesday 12th January 2010.

CLIMATE CHANGE

You may wish to revisit the webpages that list the [RTPI's Seven Commitments](#) as they have been updated and expanded.

IN SCOTLAND?

REMINDER: 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 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.

REMINDER: 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/>

NETWORK OF THE MONTH: DECEMBER

The RTPI International Development Network recognises planning as a global profession and sees planners worldwide sharing a vision of creating sustainable places to live.

Andrew

[Local Democracy↑](#)

[Partnerships for Growth](#)

A new English framework sets out plans to coordinate the work of Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and local authorities to promote the industries that will drive growth and priorities for skills, innovation, investment and enterprise.

[Economic Resilience](#)

Two local authorities – Dacorum and Tameside – have been shortlisted in the 'Building Economic Resilience' category of the new Local Innovation Awards.

[Delegated Powers](#)

Planning Portal reports that a Judge has ruled in favour of Leeds City Council following a High Court challenge that thousands of planning decisions made by officers were invalid because the local authority had not formally approved delegated powers.

[Amendment Bill](#)

Alistair Burt MP has agreed to introduce the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill into Parliament. The Amendment Bill will greatly strengthen the Act by creating an ongoing 'rolling' programme for communities and Councils to submit proposals to Government after 31st July 2009. It will also formally include Parish and Town Councils in the Act's process.

[Capital Bonds](#)

Public Servant notes that the UK is one of the only developed countries not to see a thriving municipal bond market for public infrastructure debt.

[Empowerment framework](#)

This framework provides guidance to researchers and practitioners who are intending to assess the success of community empowerment interventions.

[Planning System↑](#)

[Total Capital](#)

The Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) is planning to undertake six 'Total Capital' case studies (in Southwark, Swindon, Birmingham, Leicestershire County Council, Greater Manchester City Region and Durham County Council) aimed at maximising the outputs achieved through stronger co-ordination of public and private capital investment to deliver infrastructure such as schools, health care and transport facilities to underpin housing growth and renewal of place.

[Flood Risk Practice Guide](#)

The Guide which accompanies PPS25 has been updated. You can [read here the CLG letter to Chief Planning Officers](#).

[Skills Gaps](#)

The HCA Academy has launched a new study into skills gaps in key professions across the place-making sector.

[Planning for an Ageing Population](#)

The Planning Advisory Service are sharing case studies in the hope of raising the profile of this issue. A new [HCA report](#) has also recommended that the design and development of new homes for older people must become a national priority.

[Peace Bridge](#)

NI Environment Minister Edwin Poots has announced planning approval for the construction of a new pedestrian and cycle Peace Bridge across the River Foyle in Londonderry.

[Gypsy & Traveller Sites](#)

An article at Planning Resource argues that 'gypsy and traveller accommodation and land-use needs to be demystified to ensure that planning policy and site delivery are effective'.

[Social justice, climate change and planning](#)

Speech by Housing Minister John Healey to the Town and Country Planning Association Annual Conference 2009: social justice, climate change and planning

[Housing↑](#)

[Local Trusts](#)

The National Housing Federation has warned that Conservative plans to require a 90% positive vote by local people for affordable village homes to be delivered through local housing trusts (LHTs) could hand a veto to rumps of local Nimbys.

[Sustainability](#)↑

[City Charge](#)

Planning reports that London Mayor Boris Johnson has revealed plans for electric car charge points across the capital at the [Copenhagen climate summit](#). He says that every Londoner will be no more than one mile from a charging point by 2015.

[One Brighton](#)

A Brighton eco-development, the first of its kind in Britain, has won the 'Climate Change' category in a regional award from the RTPI. It is the first new development to include the "One Planet Living" principle, which aims to encourage residents to use renewable energy and take responsibility for how they use resources.

[Building for Life](#)

Two winners of the Building for Life awards have earned the highest scores given to new housing developments since the initiative began in 2002.

[Consultations](#)↑

[England](#)

[Consultation on a new National Park and Broads Circular and Vision Statement](#)

The new Circular will be policy guidance for all those whose decisions or actions might affect the National Parks and the Broads. This will include, amongst others, government departments, government agencies, local authorities and public bodies of various kinds. [View consultation questions here](#) **Deadline for submissions: Friday 5th February 2010**

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

[Regeneration Momentum](#) - Friday 15th January, Bradford

This event will bring together the key decision makers in the private regeneration sector and public policy environment to identify the future actions needed to rebuild momentum in the regeneration of our towns, cities and regions. Use the link in the title or phone 0191 229 6634.

[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

[Sustainable Development 2010: putting sustainability into practice](#) – Thursday 18th February 2010, London

This event will focus on the important work that local authorities are carrying out to ensure the continuing improvements within the environmental battle. Use the link in the title or phone 01782 613924

[Websites](#)↑

[The Faith Communities Toolkit](#)

The Toolkit was developed for Jobcentre Plus as a mechanism for understanding the vast array of faiths followed by their clients. This knowledge can be used more widely to connect with faith communities and appreciate faith sensitive issues.

[Publications](#)↑

[Monitoring poverty and social exclusion 2009](#)

This is the annual report on the state of poverty and social exclusion in the United Kingdom from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the New Policy Institute.

[Progress Report on 2007-08 CLG Sustainable Development Action Plan](#)

A progress report on the CLG's 2007-08 SDAP setting out and updating actions taken to embed sustainability in its policies, programmes and organisational practices.

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

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