



**RTPI**

mediation of space · making of place

## **PIPA - the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network Business Plan 2009 Quarter 2 Progress**

### **Aim of the Network**


Politicians are at the core of a democratic planning system. PIPA aims to support co-operative working between professionals and politicians to achieve the most effective planning outcomes. PIPA has enormous potential to have an influence on national decision-making. It also has a strong role to play in helping politicians adjust to changes required by introduction of new planning systems.







### **Key objectives of the Network**

- Raising the profile and understanding of professional planning amongst people who are engaged in planning from a political perspective
- Providing a vehicle for all those involved in democratic planning to come together to build knowledge and exchange information and experiences
- Providing a sounding board to further develop and improve democratic planning practice
- Providing a 'one stop shop' signposting service of professional planning information for all those involved in democratic planning within the UK


### **Actions**



#### ***Objective one: Raising the profile and understanding of professional planning amongst people who are engaged in planning from a political perspective***

| <b>Action</b>  | <b>When</b> | <b>Resources required</b>   | <b>Q2 Progress</b>   |
|--|-------------|---|--|
| Have in place for 2009 a programme of UK-wide initiatives and activities, including contributions to Planning magazine, that will widen awareness and help to build membership | Dec 2008    | Network fliers. Support from magazine editors and Members. NM co-ordination and contributions | Initial attempt at a UK programme of gypsy & traveller events has stalled, avoiding any overlap with PAS. Article in Planning gave pre-publicity for Convention session ( <i>see below</i> ). Planning for 2009 Conference in London in hand. Initiative to approach every LA without a Member commenced. Slot for 'Network of the Month' booked. Presentation to GA planned for October.<br> |
| Develop the circulation of the Quarterly PIPA Bulletin sent to national and regional people with a political interest in planning, in conjunction with RTPI communications     | March 2009  | NM co-ordination  | 2 Bulletins despatched 2009. Discussions with Marketing Officer  |




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| staff.   |                       |   | aimed at improving circulation.<br>   |
| Carry out a Member survey during 2009 to gauge levels of satisfaction and potential content for the Business Plan 2010 | March 2009            | Access to Survey Monkey or similar  | Survey completed; positive response. Findings will feed into Business Planning for 2010.<br>                                    |
| Set up targeted task groups based on feedback from the member survey   | May 2009              | Members volunteering to attend set-up meetings; NM co-ordination and contributions. | To be followed up now Member survey has been completed; numerous suggestions to explore.<br>                                    |
| Host a Workshop at the Planning Convention 2009  | June 2009             | Network banner and fliers; place for NM and Workshop contributors                   | Debate event well attended – SE Design Champions helped with locating speakers.<br>   |
| Host a reception at the Elected Members' Summer School   | September 2009        | Network banner and fliers; place for NM   | Funding agreed, slot booked.<br>   |
| In conjunction with local Members and Planning Aid, have a presence at Party Conferences and other appropriate events  | As per 2009 programme | Network banner and fliers; place for NM   | Attendance at LGA event booked jointly with Planning Aid but event cancelled. Funding for attendances is very restricted.<br> |

**Objective two: Providing a vehicle for all those involved in democratic planning to come together to build knowledge and exchange information and experiences**


| Action  | When                            | Resources required  | Q2 Progress   |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
| To offer at a regional or sub-regional level a series of Network-led events that might widen awareness by bringing Councillors together | Quarterly                       | Members host events, providing venue and refreshments; NM setting-up              | Initial attempt at a UK programme of gypsy & traveller events has stalled, avoiding any overlap with PAS. One possible opening in the Midlands being explored.<br> |
| To offer in each UK nation on a 2 year cycle a Conference of the style which re-launched PIPA in 2007                                   | 2009: England (London?) + Wales | Sponsorship of up to £15,000 to be sought from PAS and Welsh Assembly Government. | Welsh Conference not supported at this time. PAS funding of at least £7,500 agreed for UK event to be held  |


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|   |                                   | Network banner and fliers; NM time and co-ordination | in London.<br>  |
| Enable relevant topics to be debated through the website Discussion Forum | New topics introduced fortnightly | NM time  | Despite the combined use of Bulletin and website Forum only a minority of Members have registered on the website.<br> |

**Objective three: Provide a sounding board to develop and improve democratic planning practice**

| Action  | When                     | Resources required  | Q2 Progress  |
|---|--------------------------|---|--|
| Conduct a survey of each Local Authority Lead Councillor for Planning around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The status of the Chief Planning Officer within the local authority</li> <li>The need to increase the numbers of qualified planners</li> </ul> | Feb 2009                 | Database of target group; admin support   | Database obtained. Survey yet to be circulated; approach discussed with Marketing Officer.<br>  |
| Set up a targeted task group on the basis of the feedback from the Local Authority survey   | April 2009               | Members volunteering to attend set-up meetings; NM co-ordination and contributions. | To follow survey.  |
| Provide intelligence to the RTPi Policy Staff by identifying forthcoming issues and arranging joint activities as appropriate   | On-going throughout 2009 | Member contributions; NM co-ordination  | Both 2009 Network events had Policy presence and helped to develop RTPi/CIH thinking and/or submissions.<br>  |
| Build co-operation with other organisations with shared interests by inviting their contributions to/participation in events whilst avoiding duplication  | On-going throughout 2009 | Member contributions; NM co-ordination  | As noted above co-operative effort with LGA initially thwarted. Relations with NALC continue to be productive. Further potential for 2009 Conference.<br> |

**Objective four: Providing a 'one stop shop' signposting service of professional planning information for all those involved in democratic planning within the UK**

| Action   | When        | Resources required   | Q2 Progress  |
|--|-------------|--|--|
| Populate the website with comprehensive resources adding a new information topic each month. | Monthly     | Member contributions; Sift co-operation and IT support as required | Some new topic areas and content added.<br> |
| In conjunction with Members and Planning   | As per 2009 | Network banner   | This worked well at  |

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| Aid, to contribute Planning 'Surgeries' at Conferences and other appropriate events | programme | and fliers; place for NM | NALC Conference 2008 but there is no equivalents (yet) for 2009.<br> |
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### Additional resources required

- 11.5 hours per week of professional staff time.
- £500 financial resources for member expenses

### Prospects

PIPA will play a major role in the RTPI's aim to put planning at the heart of local government. PIPA will continue to build relationships with the key politicians in planning to raise its profile and co-operation with professionals. 2010 or thereabouts can be expected to be an election year and through its Members PIPA can help to ensure a priority for planning issues in manifesto commitments.

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