



RTPI Cymru

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13 December 2022

e-mail response sent to: climatechange@gov.wales

Dear Sir/Madam,

Response to: Draft strategy for engaging the general public in action on climate change

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the largest professional institute for planners in Europe, representing some 27,000 spatial planners. RTPI Cymru represents the RTPI in Wales, with 1,300 members. The Institute seeks to advance the science and art of planning, working for the long-term common good and well-being of current and future generations. The RTPI develops and shapes policy affecting the built environment, works to raise professional standards and supports members through continuous education, training and development.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above consultation. Engaging the public is an important aspect of climate change. RTPI Cymru supports working in partnership with communities to establish local priorities and sustainable opportunities for the future. Often communities hold knowledge and understanding required to actively shape their places and to deliver agreed outcomes which align with the priorities of local people. Influencing behaviour change of individuals, as well as how organisations work, is also critical for addressing climate change.

Partnership working is key to engagement, yet this requires resources and support to ensure a successful, collaborative process with meaningful community engagement and achievable outcomes. Capacity and skills should be invested in across Wales to enable stakeholders to properly commit to and support effective and meaningful community engagement.

We note the focus of this strategy is society and people, yet it is specifically aimed at 'Team Wales partners' and those already working to address climate change. While we do not

disagree with the content of the draft strategy, we believe this document could set out a bolder approach on engaging the public in climate change. For example, the 'involvement' section on page 20 of the draft strategy does not appear to go beyond what we would already expect to be taking place in terms of involvement. We would expect to see more innovative ideas and approaches set out in the strategy.

The strategy should set a standard for best practice in engaging with the public, including best practice for using visuals and different formats for different audiences and users etc.

Net Zero Wales is repeatedly raised as an important consultation for engaging the public, it would be useful to mention other forthcoming consultations that will equally impact on climate change and would benefit from public awareness and input.

If you require further assistance, please contact RTPI Cymru on 020 7929 8197 or e-mail Roisin Willmott at walespolicy@rtpi.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Dr Roisin Willmott OBE FRTPi
Director
RTPI Cymru