

<i>Reference</i>	PPRC23/MAR08/03B
<i>Date</i>	March 8 2023



POLICY PRACTICE AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES of a meeting of the Policy Practice and Research Committee held 2pm-4pm on 8 March 2023 via online conferencing

PRESENT:

Janet Askew (Chair) JA,
 Hannah Northrop (HN), Planning Schools Forum
 Chris Clarke (CC), RTPI Cymru
 Debabardhan Upadhyaya (DU) Practitioner
 Lisa Curran (LC) RTPI Northern Ireland
 Gavin Parker (GP) ELL Committee
 Geoff Payne International Committee

IN ATTENDANCE: Richard Blyth (Head of Policy, Practice & Research) RB. Jenny Divine (Research Officer) JD, Beatrice Crabb (BC), (International Lead), Daniel Slade (DS) Policy Manager, Robert Calvert (RC) Scotland Policy, Practice and Research Officer, Rhian Brimble (RTPI Cymru Policy Officer)

APOLOGIES: Stefano Smith (Vice Chair) SS

MINUTE TAKER: Governance and Compliance Officer

Item		Action
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting and accepted apologies on behalf of Stefano Smith, the Vice Chair.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>No declarations of interests declared. Members were reminded to complete online declarations forms, if not already done so.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the Policy, Practice and Research Committee on 1 December 2022</p>	

	<p>The Committee accepted the minutes on 1 December 2022 as an accurate reflection of the previous meeting apart from the Item relating to the Education Policy Review.</p> <p>ACTION: Correct item 6 retrospectively to reflect accurate position of the RTPI Policy, Practice and Research Committee on its response to the Education Policy Review.</p>	<p>Chair. GP & Committee Lead</p>
4	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Policy, Practice and Research Committee on October 2022</p> <p>The Chair asked about the status of the Peer Review Panel. The Head of Policy replied that it would be actioned once the first research topic was underway.</p> <p>The Committee recognised the valuable contribution of Professor Aude Biquelet Lock, the former RTPI Deputy Head of Policy and Research, for her role and launching the research strategy.</p> <p>Members wished Prof Biquelet Lock every success in her new role and looked forward to replacing her successor who was due to begin their role on 5 April 2023.</p>	
5	<p>Research Strategy 2022-24: Selection of Topics</p> <p>Committee members were asked to approve the recommendations for RTPI research topics (section 3 in report REF: PPRC23/MAR08/05 dated 08.03.2023 circulated before the meeting).</p> <p>The Head of Policy, Practice and Research reminded members that the RTPI Board had approved the Research Strategy in September 2021 that was now being implemented.</p> <p>Key elements of the new strategy include a concerted effort to work closer with planning schools on research. The designated research fund was valued at £140,000 for 2023-2024. It will be supplemented by contributions from English Regions, the RTPI Trust. Work would be undertaken both in house and via commissions.</p> <p>Members were advised that any additional requests to the table on the annex could necessitate removing existing proposals elsewhere.</p> <p>Main points discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could England policy matters such as street votes be included? RTPI Officers pointed out that the requests of the England Policy Panel had been added, namely work on local plans. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members asked if digital planning could be included to which RPTI officers pointed out the extensive work had been undertaken on Digital Planning by Wei Yang and Mike Batty at UCL. - It was noted that Regions that did not hold reserves could still benefit from funding, however, they would not receive a specific focus. This could cover regions that had not put forward ideas, such as East Midlands. <p>Feedback from International Committee</p> <p>Feedback from the International Committee included a request for research to be developed into thought-leadership editorial pieces to cover topics such as rapid recovery from disaster and building capacity for resilience within a global context. Members asked for the inclusion of additional international themes such as displacement.</p> <p>RTPI officers pointed out that, unless items were removed from the list, it would be difficult to add specific international items. Furthermore, displacement had been featured in a recent report.</p> <p>Feedback from the Nations</p> <p>Members noted the written feedback from the Nations including England. In addition, representatives of the Nations mentioned a few additional points:</p> <p>Northern Ireland – Include Strategic planning across border with the Republic of Ireland in strategic planning. Include NI in Location Development. A Collaboration was underway between University of Ulster on greenways; planning for energy security, further developing strong renewable energy sector and planning for a net-zero carbon usage.</p> <p>DECISION: The recommended topics for the Research Strategy were agreed subject to the addition of Northern Ireland to Location of Development 4 if possible.</p>	
6	<p>Research Awards Update</p> <p>The Research Officer gave a verbal update and recommended that the Committee approved plans to update the judging guidance for the Sir Peter Hall awards to enable only one overall winner. Members were also asked to approve the recommendation of the RTPI Events team that the research awards were not included in the annual Awards for Planning Excellence ceremony. This recommendation had arisen from a lack of uptake of that opportunity.</p> <p>DECISION: Members agreed to forego the inclusion of research awards in the main Awards for Planning Excellence.</p>	

	<p>ACTION: Update judging guidance as requested and liaise with the University to ensure ceremony is well attended.</p>	JD
7	<p>Music Venues Trusts</p> <p>The Committee was asked to agree to support a statutory right of consultation for music venues subject to the conditions as set out in the report circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>The Head of Policy, Practice & Research recommended approval with the caveats to be resolved at his meeting with representatives of the Music Venue Trust on 14 March 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do they have a clear understanding of the process? • Are they resourced to give timely responses which add value? • What process would be used to define the applications in scope – what are “venues”? • What would the MVT see as the proper role for planning and for other regimes such as Environmental Health? • Is the MVT concerned about noise from other venues which might have an impact on existing venues? • Would this right of consultation extend to “agent of change” circumstances not directly happening on the site of the venue? <p>DECISION: Approved with issues listed above to be resolved with the Music Venue Trust.</p>	
8	<p>Nations Updates</p> <p>Representatives from the Nations gave verbal updates on work in their respective countries for the last two months:</p> <p>Wales – Introduction of a new research policy forum followed by a call for evidence from Welsh-speaking communities and advising the devolved Welsh government on achieving a net-zero carbon future.</p> <p>Scotland – National Planning Framework 4 has been formally adopted while awaiting publication of Local Development Plan Regulations and Guidance. The Director would manage policy matters before a new PPR officer was appointed.</p> <p>Northern Ireland (NI) – Launch of new policy forum bringing together planning experts from academia and the private and public sector; explore NI position to the Draft Planning and Development bill 2022– five consultations underway.</p>	

	<p>England – Response to the National Planning Policy Framework has been completed. This followed extensive consultations with members across the English regions. This was the first in a pipeline of consultations. The next consultation would focus on planning fees. The proposed changes to the NPPF would address a low trust among the public in the regional planning system and a lack of incentive for communities to participate.</p> <p>Members asked that written updates be written at future meetings.</p> <p>The Committee thanked Robbie Calvert the RTPI Policy and Research Officer for this contribution to the RTPI and wished him every success in his next role.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
9	<p>Annual Report of National Association for Planning Enforcement</p> <p>The Committee was asked to note the report of Craig Allison Chair of NAPE, first year in office and representative for the North of England.</p> <p>The Chair described the report as readable and very good.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
10	<p>Annual Report of Independent Consultants' Network</p> <p>The Committee was asked to note the report of Deirdre Wells Dip TP MRTPI the interim Chair of the RTPI Independent Consultants Network's Steering Group dated January 2023.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
11	<p>A.O.B</p> <p>None.</p>	

The meeting ended at 16:00