

Reference	BOT25.FEB.17
Date	26 February 2025

Board of Trustees

Report from the Presidential Team

FOR INFORMATION

1. Background

- 1.1 This report is to inform the Board of the Presidential Team's activities since the last Board meeting which was held on the 11 December 2024. The Presidential Team feel it is useful that this report covers all activities undertaken across the whole team in order to give the Board a full overview of activities and events. This report also provides a short look forward of key forthcoming events.
- 1.2 The immediate Past President was still in post until the Inauguration on 22 January 2025 and the Past President's section covers the key meetings and events during that period.

2. President's Report

- 2.1 Since the Inauguration held on 22 January 2025, I have attended the following meetings and events.

- **New General Assembly Members Breakfast meeting** 22 January 2025. The breakfast meeting presented an opportunity for new members to meet the Presidential Team and the CEO, and to understand the role of GA and Governance arrangements and network with other new and returning members.
- **Reception and meeting with Nigeria Institute of Town Planners** President and National Secretary, 23 January 2025.

The meeting was attended by Victoria Hills CEO, Prof Samer Bageen, Chair International Committee and Beatrice Crabb, International Lead. The discussion centred on potential collaboration between the two institutes to benefit both members and the wider public. It was agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), modelled on the existing South Africa MOU, would be considered, subject to Board approval. Additionally, opportunities for study field trips and Young Planners exchange programmes were explored.

- **The Town and Country Planning Association** hosted a webinar featuring a speech by Sir Michael Lyons, chair of the New Towns Taskforce, 28 January 2025. The proceeding presented an opportunity for the RTPI to promote involving our members in the work of the taskforce

- **Induction Training for new Trustees.** This is organised on an annual basis by the Governance team in order to ensure new Trustees understand Governance requirements, our responsibilities under the Charity Commission and its Regulatory requirements, the RTPI Objectives and our Bylaws, 30 January 2025.
- **Nathaniel Litchfield Lecture,** Professor Simin Davoudi, 'Prefigurative Planning: Enacting utopias in the here and now', 6 February 2025.
- **National Apprenticeship week** – TBC.
- **RTPI Major Housebuilder Members Biannual Roundtable,** 21 February 2025.
- **Presidential Team Alignment Call** 21 February 2025.

2.2 Events and meetings to be held prior to the next Board meeting on 2 April 2025 include:

- First meeting of Global Planners Network, 27 February 2025.
- RTPI Finance Committee, 5 March 2025.
- Visit to Yorkshire, 6 March 2025.
- International Women's Day, 8 March 2025.
- General Assembly, 19 March 2025.
- Major Consultancies Virtual, 20 March 2025.
- America Planners Association Conference, 22 March to 2 April 2025.

3. Vice President

3.1 Since the Inauguration held on 22 January 2025, I have attended the following meetings and events.

- **Presidential Team bi-weekly engagement calls,** 10 and 24 January 2025.
- **New General Assembly Members Breakfast** meeting 22 January 2025. The breakfast meeting presented an opportunity for new members to meet the Presidential Team and the CEO, and to understand the role of GA and Governance arrangements and network with other new and returning members.
- **RTPI General Assembly meeting** 22 January 2025. Including, general business, RTPI Trust, Strategic Planning, Honorary Membership Award: Alexandra Notay, Nations and Regions, Building Capacity and Capabilities, networking with GA members and RTPI team.

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- **Presidential Inauguration Helen Fadipe MBE FRTPI** as President for 2025 and follow on **Reception** and networking with invited guests, 22 January 2025.
- **Induction Training for new Trustees.** This is organised on an annual basis by the Governance team in order to ensure new Trustees understand Governance requirements, our responsibilities under the Charity Commission and its Regulatory requirements, the RTPI Objectives and our Bylaws, 30 January 2025.
- **RTPI English Policy Committee**, extra meeting ahead of the publication of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill and to recent MHCLG reform papers and responses, 4 February 2025.
- **Nathaniel Litchfield Lecture, Professor Simin Davoudi**, Prefigurative Planning: Enacting utopias in the here and now, 6 February 2025.
- **Presidential Team bi-weekly engagement calls**, 7 and 21 February 2025.
- **RTPI Nations and Regions Panel**, 11 February 2025.
- **Presidential Team Alignment Call**, 21 February 2025.

3.2 The meetings and events that I will be attending and engaging with prior to next RTPI Board meeting, 2 April 2025 are:

- **RTPI Finance Committee**, 5 March 2025.
- **North East Women in Planning Breakfast/coffee morning**, to mark **International Women's Day**, 6 March 2025.
- **English Policy Committee**, 10 March 2025.
- **RTPI General Assembly**, Birmingham, 19 March 2025.

4. Immediate Past President

4.1 Since the last report up to the Presidential Inauguration held on 22 January 2025, I have attended the following meetings and events:

- 13 December 2024, the end of the calendar year finished on a sombre note with **Tony Crooks funeral held at All Saint's Church in Curbar, near Grindleford**. As President I attended alongside the Chief Executive and a number of Trustees. The funeral was well attended and an opportunity to say thank you to one of our Trustees who at the time of his death was Chair of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee, Chair of the Governance Group and Vice Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. Tony had also represented the Institute on many external bodies.

- 13 January 2025, **Local Government Association**, 18 Smith Square Westminster **Keynote speech to the new cohort of graduates starting LGA Pathways into Planning**. Speaking alongside Anna Rose from PAS and David Waterhouse, MHCLG.

Interest in the scheme is high. Over 2000 graduates applied for 2024/25 with around 700 making it through the assessment process. The programme offered 90 spaces, the scheme recruited 89 new planners into 59 local authorities. Applications are currently open for 25/26 and applications have already exceeded 1,700. LGA are aiming to offer 150 spaces minimum depends on council demand.

The scheme has also achieved 40% BAME representation, a 50/50 gender balance and just under 20% with social mobility indicators.

- 14 January 2025 **Briefing call for judging The Planner Women of Influence 2025**.
- 16 January 2025 **Past Presidents lunch**, Bloomsbury Hotel, London.
- 16 January 2025 (Eve) **RICS Presidents Inauguration**, Church House, Westminster.
- 22nd January 2025, Stationers' Hall, St Pauls. **Presidents Breakfast for new GA Members**.
- 22 January 2025, **General Assembly**, Stationers' Hall, St Pauls. Chaired final GA as President. Guest speakers Catriona Ridell, Hannah Hickman and Tom Evans on Strategic Planning and David Waterhouse (apologies received) on Capacity and Capability within the Planning sector.
- Delivered final **valedictory** speech before handing chain of office over to **Helen Fadipe MBE FRTPI** as President for 2025 and her **Inauguration** and attended follow on **Reception** and networking with invited guests, 22 January 2025.
- 12 February **2025**, Final judging panel for The Planner Women of Influence.

4.2 The meetings and events that I will be attending and engaging with prior to next RTPI Board meeting, 2 April 2025 are:

- **RTPI General Assembly**, Birmingham, 19 March 2025.

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5. Other Matters

5.1 The Presidential theme for 2025 is:

‘Championing Collaboration, Investment, and Inclusivity for a Resilient Planning Profession’.

This theme reflects my deep commitment to fostering a planning profession that is well prepared to address the challenges of our times, while embracing the values of partnership, resourcefulness, and representation.

The National and Regional visits are currently being arranged and in addition to meeting members and visiting projects that resonate with the three core themes, I will continue with visits to accredited planning schools focusing on the Institutions that have signed up to the RTPI / British Chamber of Commerce Planning Scholarship.

Helen Fadipe MBE. FRTPI

President

Jan Bessell FRTPI

Vice President

Lindsey Richards FRTPI

Immediate Past President