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Royal Town Planning Institute



**Planning Ahead - a means
to deliver a successful
& sustainable Scotland**

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Editorial

With the world now apparently continually in flux, and all bets off as to in which direction the political spectrum is shifting, one concept has grabbed the imagination of Scottish politicians and policy wonks alike in 2017 – 'Inclusive Growth'. At the RTPI Scotland Annual Conference, held in October, presentations from Oonagh Gil of Scottish Government, Lesley Martin of the RSA, and Nick Skelton of Peter Brett Associates, all provoked debate on just what makes Inclusive Growth different from any other economic development model. The discussion clearly grabbed the imagination of delegates, providing the inspiration for an edition in which we have sought to sketch in more of the detail on what Inclusive Growth has to do with placemaking, and vice versa. The Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work has outlined the Scottish Government's priorities for us, while several of our contributors have shared the details of planning initiatives and asked '*Is this what Inclusive Growth looks like?*'

The focus of the Inclusive Growth Agenda on inequalities of place has brought into sharp relief the importance of planning in shaping prosperous, healthy places. On page 4 Luke Slattery, who has recently completed an

excellent six months as RTPI Scotland's Intern Project Officer, introduces our Planning Ahead campaign. With primary planning legislation soon to be introduced to the Scottish Parliament, we want to make sure that MSPs are aware of the full breadth of work in which planners and planning are instrumental to success. We have collated some great examples that illustrate the diversity of work that planning is involved in, and would be delighted for you to share these with colleagues inside and outside the profession. More information is available at www.rtpi.org.uk/planningahead.

We have identified some excellent practice, but know there are more exemplary projects out there. Please share your examples of planning's influence on positive citizenship, public health, education, economic growth, and any other issue on which planning has an indispensable impact, on Twitter using the hashtag #planningahead, or by email at scotland@rtpi.org.uk.

The whole team hopes that you enjoy this edition of Scottish Planner, and wishes you a restful festive period and all the best for the coming year.

— Kate Houghton, Co-Editor

Convenor's Comments: Maintaining the momentum in creating firm foundations – the 3 Big C's



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Stefano Smith FRTPI, Convenor of RTPI Scotland, considers the necessary ingredients in maintaining the momentum towards creating firm foundations for a renewed planning system that delivers sustainable development and economic growth

Scotland's planning system operates within a complex and changing context. Our current system has many strengths and there are examples of good practice across the country. Nevertheless, we need to ensure that the system works more effectively to support delivery of development, inclusive growth and quality of place. People are at the heart of the system and it must work effectively in all our interests.

I believe that the necessary ingredients in maintaining the momentum can be captured in three key words – **the 3 Big C's**.

Collaboration – building and maintaining relationships between local authorities, developers, infrastructure providers, professions, community groups and other key stakeholders. There needs to be greater awareness of best practice and sharing of knowledge and experiences. The recent Scottish Government SAQP Awards 2017 is an excellent example of 'shouting about success' and demonstrating real collaboration in practice, celebrating quality in planning right across Scotland. Congratulations to all who were shortlisted across the four categories of Partnership, Place, Plans and Process, commended and to the overall winner - Orkney Islands Council for its Team Stromness project. Such awards are especially important

as the planning review moves forward towards the Planning Bill expected by the end of this year.

Collective - the Planning Bill will lead to more intensive scrutiny of planners, planning and the planning system. We need to be ready to respond with evidence. We need to be 'solution-focused'. We need to 'succeed through others'. The public and private sector need to continue to work collectively, to find solutions where for example there are infrastructure challenges. There is evidence of where infrastructure providers, such as Scottish Water, are adopting a more proactive strategic approach in enabling development across Scotland, committing funding to support economic development and growth and working closely with local authorities and the wider development community. More of this is necessary if the infrastructure constraints to development are to be unlocked.

Corporate - planning should be recognised as a central corporate function within local authorities. I want to see public sector confidence strengthened and private sector investment rewarded with greater certainty and quality of service. Positive behaviour should be incentivised by all those involved in planning. There is scope to reconfigure

resources and direct efforts to areas where they can produce the greatest benefit. This should enable stronger leadership, smarter resourcing and sharing of skills. In terms of leadership, we need to move from rhetoric to reality; high aspirations to accountability, courage to collaboration, resilience to growth and positivity to action.

2018 will be another critical year for planning in Scotland. The Planning Bill is expected to be relatively concise – around 40 clauses – and largely enabling change to be brought about through secondary legislation to follow in 2018 and 2019. Policy and guidance to complement reforms brought about by primary and secondary legislation is also likely to follow this timetable.

We therefore have to maintain the momentum of the excellent work and achievements of the RTPI Scotland to date in engaging and influencing the planning review and the forthcoming Planning Bill with '3 Cs' in plain sight: Collaboration, Collective, Corporate. ■



Luke Slattery
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Article: #planningahead

RTPI Scotland's Intern Project Officer **Luke Slattery** introduces the Institute's recently launched Planning Ahead campaign, designed to highlight how planning can help to overcome Scotland's economic, environmental and social challenges. The campaign uses six examples to illustrate just some of the ways in which planners and planning have achieved tangible and positive outcomes for Scotland's places and people.

Planning Ahead

We might want MSPs to engage with planning matters and the planning process, but we all know that planning is often the last word on their lips, or indeed, an area which they feel should be avoided altogether. "One piece of advice I got when I started in politics was to avoid planning" is something we have frustratingly heard a lot from the chamber of the Scottish Parliament. RTPI Scotland wants

"One piece of advice I got when I started in politics was to avoid planning"

to help overcome this reluctance by promoting both the positive work that planning does and the opportunities it can offer MSPs in their constituency and parliamentary roles. The 2016 Scottish Parliamentary election

manifestos spanned issues in which planning is an indispensable part of the solution; connecting communities, building more homes, revitalising local democracy, stimulating the economy, improving active travel routes, revamping disused buildings, and revitalising neglected land. Even while planning itself can be side-lined and its role misunderstood, planning issues remain central in Scottish politics.

The review of the planning system is an opportunity to ensure that planning is used to help overcome some of Scotland's most pressing challenges. Seizing this opportunity will depend on securing interest from MSPs – during the immediate passage of the Planning Bill and afterwards – as new legislation, policy and guidance is implemented. We believe that by Planning Ahead we can create great places for people: our task is to demonstrate to others with

a stake in the system of the same.

The examples outlined, which are to be shared with MSPs in the coming weeks, illustrate the breadth of public policy issues that planning is affected by and committed to. They also outline the changes that we expect as a consequence of the planning review; for planning to be able to influence outcomes for the better.

We have chosen just six examples; please get in touch with us to tell us about examples from your places. We will be using #planningahead on Twitter to file examples from across Scotland and share these with politicians and other stakeholders.

"Planning, like places, is never finished: realising the full benefits of investment requires thinking comprehensively and Planning Ahead."

#planningahead...to support people to shape where they live

Local knowledge goes a long way in strengthening the best in places, as well as in identifying and overcoming weaknesses. Planners have the skills to engage with different communities of place and interest. Frontloaded and mainstreamed collaborative working in the Scottish Planning System, including through links to Community Planning, can help lead to more sustainable places.

'X-Route Co-designing Active Travel' demonstrated this way of working. A partnership between SESTrans and Young Scot, the project placed young people at the heart of designing regional cycling infrastructure in South East Scotland. The experience of young people was used to reveal practical barriers to cycling, and to inform design solutions. The outcome is a new glow in the dark cycle route, making cycling feel safer and more appealing all year round.

We want MSPs to make sure that the Local Place Plans we expect to be introduced by the Planning Bill are resourced to meaningfully engage local communities with decision making about their places.



#planningahead...to provide a quality home for everyone that needs one

We know that the places where people live and work have direct impacts on them, with access to jobs, green space, public transport and amenities like shops and healthcare all affecting opportunities and outcomes.

Decisions of the past have in some cases embedded socio-economic deprivation in place. The regeneration of Crown Street, Gorbals and the surrounding masterplanned area shows how planning can intervene to unpick concentrations of deprivation and poor opportunity. The project has been delivered according to a long term vision conceived back in the 1990s, transforming New Gorbals into a pleasant, mixed-use street environment as a result.

We want a new Planning Act to produce a strengthened National Planning Framework, or National Development Plan, which considers infrastructure and housing together, so that the provision of the former supports the delivery of much needed housing



#planningahead.....to achieve inclusive growth

Scotland needs new infrastructure projects: not just to shorten travel times, but also to release new opportunities for housing to be built, businesses to expand and environments to be enjoyed.

Borders Railway shows how planners and planning can anticipate the circumstances that allow the benefits of such opportunities to be realised. The use of masterplanning and strategic visions can direct new projects to the right places at the right time, enabling growth which benefits as many people and places as possible.

Planning, like places, is never finished: realising the full benefits of investment requires thinking comprehensively and Planning Ahead.

We want MSPs to make sure that neighbouring local authorities agree, as part of new Regional Planning Partnerships, joint priorities for development – seeking to resolve issues which cross their administrative boundaries.

#planningahead...to support healthier lifestyles

Planning is crucial to ensuring that Scotland's natural environments and assets are shaped in a way which enables people's enjoyment of them. More than this, development which creates a healthy environment by including green infrastructure can be more attractive to visitors and expanding businesses. The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN), designated in the National Planning Framework, uses a long-term and wide ranging vision to see greenery, natural assets and healthy environments brought to fruition.

The Network's Community Project Fund gives Community Trusts responsibility for designing and making small scale changes which can contribute to this vision. For example, the Woodlands Community Trust in Glasgow created an outdoor community centre at the Woodlands Community Garden.

We want MSPs to support the introduction of a statutory Chief Planning Officer in Local Authorities. This would embed a collaborative approach in Community Planning Partnerships, encompassing Health and Social Care Partnerships, so healthier places can be created.





#planningahead...to use our natural environment wisely

Effective environmental management often relies on an effective planning system; taking a place-based approach can help to achieve the right balance. The Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Plan (PFOWMP) does just this for both terrestrial and marine resources, balancing the needs of local communities, industries and the rich natural environment.

The plan outlines a strategic vision for the area, guides the location of new development and, by providing clarity over the area's goals, limits conflict in decision making. Using this approach, the plan should safeguard coastal and marine ecosystems and protect the wellbeing of local communities. This requires a long term vision as well as an ability to deliver proposals.

We want MSPs to ensure that the Planning Bill creates links between a strengthened National Planning Framework and other national strategies relevant to it. For example, the Climate Change Plan, National Transport Strategy and Infrastructure Investment Plan.

#planningahead...to protect and enhance Scotland's most treasured places

Scotland boasts some of the world's most iconic and treasured places. Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park is one. Established in the year 2000, its National Park status safeguards its future, with economic activity closely screened for sustainability.

Planning serves not only to protect the Park's environment, but also to support local livelihoods and enhance the visitor experience. National Parks and planning are inextricable, and are one of the essential tools we have for ensuring that which is special is not lost or ruined, but enhanced and enjoyed. From protecting the area's native red squirrels; earmarking land for hotels; restoring walking paths and boosting affordable housing supply for locals, planners in the authority work to balance all interests. This requires a strong, confident and influential development plan.

We want MSPs to ensure that the Planning Bill strengthens Local Development Plans by giving them a ten year horizon. Once a plan is in place, this longer term view will give planners more opportunity to prioritise implementing the proposals and policies included.



A call to embrace Planning Ahead...

In light of these planning successes, we are keen that RTPi Members

1. Highlight examples of successful planning with local and national politicians: In the run up to the Planning Bill and during its passage through Parliament, speak to your MSPs and local councillors about what planning does, and how the Bill can help it to do this more effectively.
2. Tell us about planning successes where you are: We have picked out just six cases of good planning in Scotland. We know there are many more, so share them with us at [@rtpiscotland](https://twitter.com/rtpiscotland) using [#planningahead](https://twitter.com/hashtag/planningahead) on Twitter. Or, by email to scotland@rtpi.org.uk.

How do we solve the housing crisis? How do we keep Scotland open for business and deliver inclusive growth? How do we tackle climate change? How do we protect our most valued towns, cities and landscapes?

We think these challenges can be overcome by Planning Ahead. More information about the case studies and how to get involved can be found at www.rtpi.org.uk/planningahead ■

Q&A

Public Enquiries



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Pamela Clifford, Planning and Building Standards Manager at West Dunbartonshire Council, answers our questions on planning, planners and the planning system.

1 Who has been the biggest inspiration or influence on your career and why?

The many people you work with and meet during your career path. I started as a young planning officer in the former Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council (now East Ayrshire Council) and it was there that I found my interest in design. I was particularly known for my detailed conditions regarding material samples! The Development Control Manager, Dave Morris, encouraged me to pursue good quality design and to have belief in my own views. At the time, there were a number of young planners and there were always good discussions in the office about what constituted good and bad design.

During my time at KLDC, I also had the privilege of working on the public inquiry for 9 retail applications at Queens Drive in Kilmarnock with the Deputy Director of Planning. In those days, we were taken away from the day-to-day work to work on inquiry full-time. Gone are those days! Working with some of the top Scottish QC's, planning consultants and other professionals, I learned how to make good decisions, which is really important for my current position.

I moved to West Dunbartonshire in 2006. Working closely with my regeneration colleagues has encouraged me to push boundaries to deliver quality development and has made me a much better planner and manager. Working with some good Scottish architects – whether engaged in Queens Quay or the new Council building in Dumbarton – has certainly inspiring me to pursue high quality design.

2 What do you feel is the biggest issue facing planners and planning at the moment?

Creating great places – future listed buildings and Conservation Areas. I have always worked in areas with socio-economic challenges so I am always having to lift up the quality of design. It certainly makes it more interesting and challenging as we push developers to get the best quality buildings and places for our communities. In West Dunbartonshire, we have the unique opportunity to create a new townscape in the heart of Clydebank at Queens Quay. The Council has also taken the bold step of allocation funding for a Place and Design Panel supported by a Place and Design Officer as a way of raising design quality in West Dunbartonshire. Good design creates great places which can change the socio-economic characteristics of an area and change perceptions. We are pushing boundaries at Queens Quay to create an outstanding place of the future.

3 Why is planning important?

What would places be like without a planning system? The majority of development would go to the more prosperous areas and places like West Dunbartonshire would get whatever is left. Buildings would be built as cheaply as possible with poor design and poor quality of materials. I am lucky in West Dunbartonshire that my regeneration and economic colleagues recognise the benefits of planning and we work very hard to get the development delivered on the ground, often with numerous complex issues to resolve.

4 Where do you think best exemplifies planning's role in creating great places for people?

I think you need to look toward Europe and having spent a few summers in France, most of the French towns are exemplar in terms of creating great public spaces whereby the interaction of people comes first as opposed to the car. In Scotland, I think we have much to learn about this: especially our Roads Engineers. The Kings Cross development in London is a development which has created great places. There are a lot of parallels between this development and what we are trying to achieve on the Queens Quay site in Clydebank.

5 What opportunities are there for community planning and spatial planning teams in local authorities to work more closely together?

This is essential but it is not without its challenges. Firstly, you need to have a Senior Manager in Community Planning to champion this and see the benefits of the alignment of community planning and spatial planning. Community planners have a different outlook from spatial planners and often community planning is at a very low level whereby concerns are centred around litter and dog mess, etc. I believe that there should be a stronger alignment; but community planners must come up to the same level as spatial planning. This will result in greater focus on the place and placemaking skills which will help to address the day-to-day issues which communities are often concerned about. ■

Immaterial Considerations

All I Want For Christmas...

It's almost Christmas! But what is the ultimate present that would be most appreciated by a planner? Well, we googled it to find out and – surprise, surprise – it's not a signed copy of *The Life and Death of American Cities* by Jane Jacobs. Not a set of personalised waterproofs for those winter site visits. Not a season ticket for the new RTPI Training events to be held in Scotland. Not even an early copy of the forthcoming Planning Bill. Perhaps predictably it's a T shirt telling people to be nice to planner because Santa is watching.



TV Stars

We are pleased to announce that we have another planning TV star. After the cult TV show *The Planners* provided 15 minutes of fame for planners such as Andrew Trigger who was then at City of Edinburgh Council, there is a new kid on the block. Introducing Rory MacDonald, from Argyle and Bute Council who has become the latest reality TV planner given his appearance on BBC's *A Country Council* programme. His bit of the programme proved to be the key cliffhanger and surprise of the series when on a supposedly run of the mill site visit he discovered an unauthorised housing development hidden behind trees. Rory showed his professionalism throughout and was a credit to the profession by coming up with a solution that suited all.



The Rise of the Stroad

We were recently entertained and inspired by former Vancouver Chief Planner Brent Toderian's masterclass in Edinburgh. Brent provided a tour de force on key issues facing planning focussing on new approaches to density and how to promote active travel. A key aspect of his talk was about 'complete streets' and the rise of the Stroad. Fear not, the stroad isn't a dangerous creature from *Game of Thrones* but rather a street that acts like a road in being a route for traffic rather than a place for pedestrians to walk and loiter. An interesting concept that you can find more about here: <https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2017/10/30/the-stroad>

If you have any suggestions for the Immaterial Considerations team, please contact us at scotland@rtpi.org.uk.

In Focus: Scottish Marine Recreation & Tourism Survey



Nick James, Director of Environmental Planning, LUC and **Sarah Brown**, Project Manager, Clyde Marine Planning Partnership and Director, C2W Consultancy.

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Photo credit - Nick James. Kayaking in the Summer Isles

Scotland is blessed with a diverse and often dramatic coastline, rich in natural and cultural heritage. It is an environment that is coming under increasing pressure from competing activities set against a background of climate change.

The growing importance of co-ordinating marine activities, more effectively managing the marine environment and planning positively for climate change led to the Marine (Scotland) Act in 2010, heralding a new era in the way that we plan for the coast and seas. Marine Scotland was created as a new Directorate of the Scottish Government, with lead responsibility for marine planning. In March 2015 it published Scotland's first National Marine Plan, setting the context for the preparation of marine spatial plans for eleven Marine Regions, led by Marine Planning Partnerships.

“A total of around 2500 individuals, clubs and businesses took part, providing unparalleled information across the marine recreation sector.”

Marine Scotland quickly identified a lack of comprehensive and consistent information about marine recreation. There was a real risk that marine planning would fail to address an economically and culturally important sector, potentially compromising the ability of our coast and seas to support and nurture such activity.

A team led by the Glasgow based consultancy LUC and funded by a consortium, led by the Scottish Government and including The Crown Estate and the Scottish Coastal Forum, was commissioned to carry out a national survey of marine and coastal recreation to provide a baseline for the new marine plans. After assessment of the existing data-poor situation, they developed an innovative web-based survey to gather information about 22 types of recreation activity. Respondents used interactive maps to record where they had been over the previous year. They were asked about choosing where to go, where they stayed and how much they spent. The survey was promoted via extensive publicity and social media engagement. A total of around 2500 individuals, clubs and businesses took part, providing unparalleled information across the marine recreation sector. People had taken part in an average of four activities during the previous twelve months, mapping around six locations for each. Between them, respondents provided more than 52,000 discrete items of spatial data.

Figure 1 shows the total spread of recreation and tourism activity around the Scottish coastline. Key concentrations include the Firth of Clyde, Argyll and West Highland coast, together with the Lothians and Fife coastline and the Moray Firth.

Using this information, the team

estimated the total expenditure associated with the sector. This suggested that annual expenditure on marine recreation and tourism activities is worth up to £3.7 billion to the Scottish economy.

The Clyde Marine Planning Partnership is amongst the first marine regions to embark on the marine planning process and is already making good use of the survey findings to identify those areas that are most visited for different types of recreation.

It is anticipated that the findings will find wider application, for example guiding investment in recreation infrastructure, private sector investment and marketing and local strategies for managing recreation activity.

We are delighted to say that the Survey was announced as a winner of a Scottish Award for Quality in Planning 2017 at the ceremony in Edinburgh on 8 November. ■

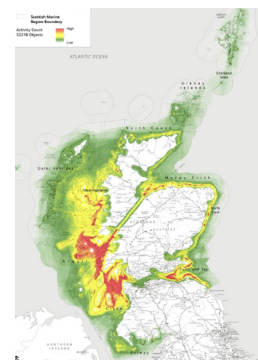


Figure 1 total spread of recreation and tourism activity around the Scottish coastline

In Practice: National Standards for Validation



Jim Birrell
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Jim Birrell, Planning Review Programme Manager for Heads of Planning Scotland (HOPS)

HOPS has just published a national guidance note on validation standards to be used in determining planning applications and other consents across Scotland. It is important for several reasons;

- If the correct information is not submitted at the start of the planning assessment process it delays the process and frustrates customers and planners,
- It is critical that a submitted application is legally valid and complies with the legislation,
- Some 60% of submitted applications are invalid when first received and this generates extra work for planners and applicants which can be easily avoided,
- All LPAs use their own version of validation standards and it is time to use a single national version to avoid discrepancies and different standards,
- One, national version saves time and resources and eliminates confusion.

Customers are shown what needs to be submitted and why, in easy to read sections covering the legally valid elements in a simple first level checklist, then in more detail in the main text and Appendices summarising other relevant information which may be required.

HOPS has co-produced this document with the help and assistance of RTPI, RICS, RIAS, SPF and the Scottish Government, who have all reviewed it and provided feedback. Homes for Scotland also contributed to the consultation.

This is a “living document” and it will be reviewed early in 2018 to obtain user feedback from councils and customers and then we will publish a finalised version which we anticipate all external reviewers will be able to formally endorse.

HOPS considers that there are other day to day work streams, such as planning conditions, legal agreements and also policy topics e.g. dormers and house extensions, which could also benefit from a similar style HOPS national approach, which will save time, resources and introduce simplicity and consistency for all stakeholders. It will also free up staff in planning offices to concentrate on other planning workloads and priorities.

This workstream was overseen by the HOPS Development Management Sub Committee and the editorial team of Beverly Smith, Moray Council, Nancy Jamieson, Edinburgh Council, Alastair Hamilton, Fife Council, Trevor Moffat, Improvement Service and Jim Birrell, HOPS.

The full document can be found at: <https://hopsotland.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/hops-validation-and-determination-guidance-updated-12-10-17.pdf> ■

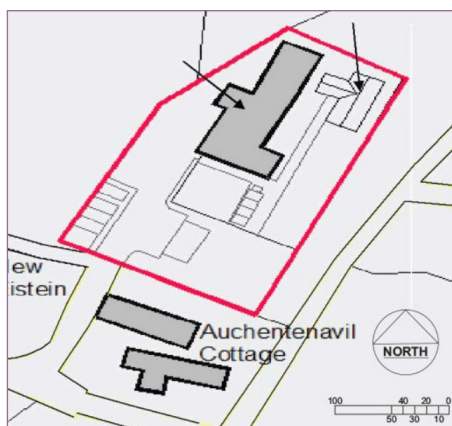
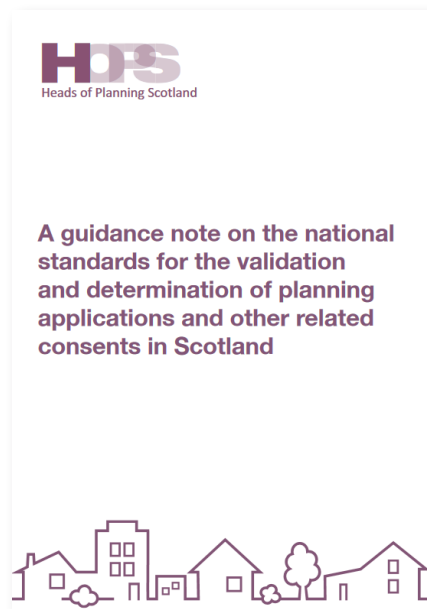


Photo credit - HOPS. Acceptable Application Site Boundary

Article:

Inclusive Growth



Scottish parliament building

The Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, **Keith Brown MSP**, discusses the inclusive growth agenda.

It is clear that over the course of the decade since the financial crisis we have seen a fall in productivity growth across the whole of the UK. It could be argued that this, combined with inequality – which is being exacerbated by a stagnation in real wages and a shrinking social safety net – has contributed to the seismic political shifts seen in the UK and across the world.

In my role as Scotland's Economy Secretary, I am aware of the role that equality plays in supporting growth and generating prosperity. Whilst the fundamentals of Scotland's economy are strong, we need to use our vast potential to become more productive and ensure that the benefits of economic prosperity are shared widely across people and places. We believe, and evidence suggests, that becoming more economically competitive can be done hand-in-hand with Scotland becoming a fairer and more equal society.

What Scotland, together with countries across the globe has increasingly recognised, is that the two challenges of boosting competitiveness and tackling inequality are intrinsically linked. A more inclusive economy

is good for everyone. An economy where income and wealth are shared more widely reduces inequality, is more productive and competitive, and delivers higher long-term growth.

This has been evidenced by a significant body of recent analysis. OECD researchers estimated that between 1990 and 2010, rising income inequality in the UK reduced economic output per head by 9 percentage points – that's approximately £1,600 per person.

The International Monetary Fund recently published a report which made it clear that inequality can "erode social cohesion, lead to political polarization, and ultimately lower economic growth".¹

It stands to reason that societies are more likely to succeed if every individual has a fair chance to flourish. That's why, when the Scottish Government revised its economic strategy in 2015, we based it upon 4 interdependent themes – innovation, internationalisation, investment and inclusive growth.

¹IMF Fiscal Monitor: Tackling Inequality, October 2017.



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Inclusive growth is growth which combines increased prosperity with greater equity, creates opportunities for all, and distributes the benefits of increased prosperity fairly.

The Scottish Government has introduced a number of measures to promote inclusive growth. We have introduced legislation to reduce, and ultimately eradicate, child poverty in Scotland; we have expanded childcare and

inclusive economic growth and contribute to it is essential to our prosperity and cohesion. Through major investments in transport and digital infrastructure, this Government is improving connectivity across all of our country, including in rural, coastal and island communities.

Inclusive growth can be supported in many different ways. We need to ensure we have enough of the right types of homes in the right locations to support future jobs and investment. Our commitment to delivering 50,000 affordable homes will tackle inequality and support jobs and investment in the construction sector and wider economy. Making homes more energy efficient will address fuel poverty and reduce emissions, whilst also

contributing to the growth of our low carbon economy. Good quality places support and attract businesses, and economic investment can stimulate regeneration and high quality development that benefits our places and communities.

We have invested, and will continue to invest in, City and growth deals. These investments, leveraging in additional private sector investment, are delivered by Regional Partnerships which help to create a shared vision for regional economies. We will continue to deliver place based investment throughout Scotland and planning will have an important role to play as part of that.

Scotland's planning system has a key role to play in creating high quality, diverse and sustainable places that promote wellbeing and inclusion and attract investment.

Places, People and Planning set out the Scottish Government's priorities for the review of the planning system. In the position statement published in June, my colleague

Kevin Stewart, the Minister for Local Government and Housing, set out the key changes being considered. These include the need to ensure that the planning system works more effectively to support delivery of development, inclusive growth and quality of place. As the statement sets out "We must keep in view the core

purpose of planning. The quality of the places where we live and work can support health and wellbeing, help to overcome inequality, create jobs and stimulate investment, whilst ensuring that we minimise and adapt to the long term impacts of climate change. A stronger focus on planning and place can add value to all areas of policy making."

This is an approach we are all behind. I and my Ministerial colleagues will be working together with Mr Stewart to help put these changes into practice and achieve our collective aims.

Clearly the planning system is already engaged with a place based approach to inclusive growth. Scotland's National Planning Framework 3, which provides the spatial expression of the Government's economic strategy, recognises the importance of responding to the distinctive character and unique challenges, assets and opportunities of all of our different places. This type of spatial thinking can do much to ensure that we take forward growth in a sustainable and inclusive way.

Likewise, Scotland's Local Authority development plans have place at the centre of their approach. Through the planning system,

our communities can also be a key driver of inclusive growth, with planning review proposals including new powers to prepare local plans for local places.

In taking the recommendations of the planning review forward, I agree that it will be essential to ensure place remains a central focus; and to think about how that focus can best be used to encourage and engender inclusive growth.

The aim of the planning review is to change the planning system to ensure that planning in Scotland can better serve the needs of society. The planning system and the profession can play a key role in making sure that spatial planning supports our aim of delivering inclusive growth.

The economy, inclusive growth and place are central to our agenda for change and I and my ministerial colleagues will continue to work with Mr Stewart to ensure the Planning Bill leaves us better placed to meet the needs of Scotland as a whole.

As the Scottish economist Adam Smith recognised, the major choices we make in economic policy aren't about what sort of economy we want to create, they are about what sort of society we want to live in. The Scottish Government recognises that planning has a key role to play in shaping that society. ■

“Good quality places support and attract businesses, and economic investment can stimulate regeneration and high quality development that benefits our places and communities.”

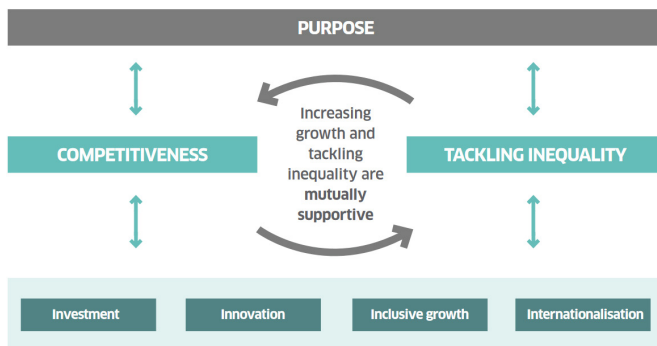
are working to reduce the attainment gap in schools. We promote payment of the Living Wage, are cracking the gender pay gap, are legislating to enable gender equality on public boards and are working to encourage equality across society - including in the workplace. We have developed a distinctive approach to Fair Work, encouraging employers to boost productivity and invest in their staff. We support this approach through the Business Pledge, which celebrates businesses which adopt progressive business practices. We recently confirmed our 400th Business Pledge company.

Fundamentally, we understand that to boost innovation and productivity we must tackle poverty; because people who are in crisis, anxious, unwell or hungry as a result of poverty are unlikely to be able to contribute their full potential to the economy or to society.

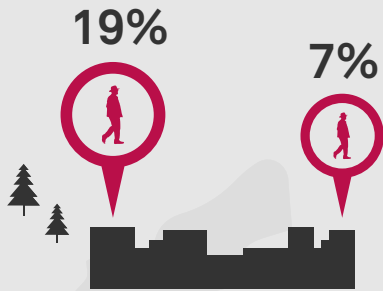
For Scotland to flourish, we need to ensure that all people and places can benefit from economic growth, and that everyone has a fair chance to contribute. This Government wants to ensure that where you come from shouldn't determine where you end up.

Ensuring all parts of Scotland benefit from

Scotland's Economic Framework

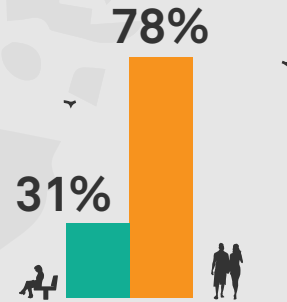


Article: Why Inclusive Growth?



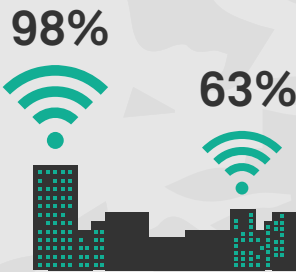
19% of adults living in the most deprived parts of Scotland had not visited the outdoors in the last twelve months compared to 7% of adults to from the least deprived areas.

(Source, Scottish Household Survey 2016)



Just over three in ten adults 31% in the 10% most deprived areas of Scotland rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live in 2016, compared to almost eight in ten 78% of those living in the 10% least deprived areas

(Source, Scottish Household Survey 2016)



98% of households in Scotland with an income of £40000 or more have internet access, compared to 63% of households with an income of £15000 or less

(Source, Scottish Household Survey 2016)



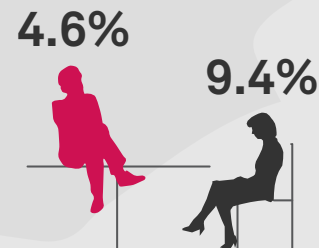
34% of people across Scotland want to be more involved in local decision making

(Source, Scottish Household Survey 2016)



58% of adults in urban areas are satisfied with public services, compared to 51% in rural areas

(Source, Scottish Household Survey 2016)



The unemployment rate in the 16-24 age group is 9.4%, compared to 4.6% for those 25+

(Source: Scottish Parliament Labour Market update January 2017)

Article:

Lochgelly - Planning Scotland's Most Improved Town



Hazel Cross
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Hazel Cross, outlines a role for planning in the regeneration of Lochgelly.

Lochgelly, a former mining town sitting in a strong geographical location in Fife, was once tagged by a national broadsheet as the worst place to live in Britain!

However, this turnaround town has been on a journey of people and place over the last 20 years resulting in it becoming the multi-award winning place it is today. In 2016 it was the winner of two RTPI UK Planning and Place-making awards in the Promoting Economic Growth category, as well as being the overall Scottish Regional winner. It was also named as Scotland's Most Improved Town at the prestigious Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum (SURF) Awards in 2016.

The role of the Scottish Planning system at both a local and national level has been key in helping support sustained economic and social regeneration activity throughout the town over the last few decades.

At the turn of the century Fife Council, Ore Valley Group and the community developed an outline masterplan for the town, to address poor quality housing, dilapidated buildings, the development of green space and the development of space for enterprise.

Land and buildings were acquired, demolitions took place to create five quality housing developments and enhanced public realm with green spaces. Heritage-led development played a part too; with the category B-listed Miners Institute being restored into an enterprise centre, after 20 years of vacancy.

In 2008-09 Fife Council's Planning Service submitted a bid to the Scottish Government's Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative (SSCI) for Lochgelly to be considered as an exemplar SSCI project. Out of sixty eight submissions, Lochgelly was one of the eleven chosen and, crucially, in 2010 it was one of only three towns in Scotland to form part of the SSCI Charrette series.

As one of the first Charrettes delivered in Scotland, the lessons learned have played a key part in informing current practice in Fife and beyond.

With five strategic land allocations totalling 2250 new homes and 23 hectares of employment land, the Charrette considered how the town would develop by 2026.

This injected focus and momentum into Lochgelly and helped re-establish the key importance of place-making; with the needs of the community at its heart.

A number of short term measures were put in place in the town, such as traffic calming, as well as work with the local business community to address the look and feel of the town centre.

In late 2011 Supplementary Planning and Transport Guidance for Lochgelly was published and this has been critical for key sites including the Town House Development, which sits in the heart of the town and is home to a four project programme of phased development. The category B-listed former Town House has been converted into mid-market rent housing with associated new build residential on the site by Fife Council and Ore Valley Group to create 31 new town centre one and two bedroom flats.

Throughout the town, significant development has taken place and the results are impressive. The main gateways at either side are now home to a state of the art £2.3M, fully-let, VIBE award winning business centre and the £2.5M refurbished Lochgelly Centre which is home to a 415 seat theatre, meeting space, library, e-commerce suite and sports facilities.

Lochgelly now has a real sense of place and community pride and it is our belief that it will remain an exemplar of good practice through the current reform of the Scottish Planning System and beyond. ■

“The role of the Scottish Planning system at both a local and national level has been key in helping support sustained economic and social regeneration”



Lochgelly Miners Square



Lochgelly Town House

Article: Tornagrain – Inclusive Growth Agenda



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Andrew Howard, Managing Director of Moray Estates, suggests that good place-making is already delivering on the Inclusive Growth agenda.

The Tornagrain project is an ambitious proposal to create a new town in the A96 Corridor between Inverness and Nairn. It was conceived, by Moray Estates, as a response to the rapid growth of Inverness and the strategic vision of The Highland Council to encourage planned growth to the east of the City. The proposal was masterplanned in 2006 by Duany Plater-Zyberk & Co through one of the first large scale public engagement charettes to have taken place in Scotland. Planning permission for 4,960 homes, commercial, retail and civic uses was granted in 2013 and work commenced on site in 2016. There are currently 40 occupied homes with further sales and significant building activity on site. The project has been funded by Moray Estates, the property company of the Earl of Moray and family with homes being built by Zero C, part of Places for People, and A & J Stephen.

The underlying philosophy of the project is to create a compact, diverse, mixed use

streets designed for character, a proper street hierarchy and relationship between buildings and streets; prioritising the pedestrian and cyclist and using street design to naturally slow traffic to improve safety and quality of life. The delivery of commercial and retail space, which has to be delivered by the builders, in neighbourhood and eventually the town centre, should provide greater opportunities for residents to make use of these services without a car. Neighbourhoods will have these services, including primary schools at their heart and within a 5 minute walk zone for the majority of residents.

The site is well placed for public transport and will benefit from an adjacent station in the next 2-3 years.

Architecture, as you can see, is unashamedly traditional at this stage because it is attractive, charming and popular. However the Estate is not dogmatically attached to a traditional architectural style and wishes to see styles evolve as the project advances. The principles and benefits of traditional urbanism do not require traditional architectural styles.

Affordable housing, 25%, is tenure blind mixed into the scheme and a wide range of house types already exist on the site – from 1 bed flats to 5 bed detached homes – in the complex mix associated with older communities.

The vision is protected by a Conservation Burden via the

Tornagrain Conservation Trust which has been granted Conservation Body status and which as the project advances will be controlled by the residents.

The Estate did not set out to adhere to

an Inclusive Growth Agenda specifically but instead by emulating successful traditional communities to create a community sustainable in the widest sense – economically, socially and environmentally. We believe that will overlap well with the Government's agenda.

Delivering projects such as Tornagrain is, however, a challenge. Opening up strategic sites is always expensive; but building to the quality of Tornagrain – with its added complexity – increases that financial exposure. In addition the bespoke nature of the product and street scape increases consultant and design costs and the time taken to agree and negotiate solutions with the relevant authorities. These challenges, along with the long wait for financial return are probably why projects of this type are largely promoted by long term landowners and not the development industry. The Government will need to consider this in promoting its agenda. ■

“The Estate did not set out to adhere to an Inclusive Growth Agenda specifically but instead by emulating successful traditional communities to create a community sustainable in the widest sense – economically, socially and environmentally.”

community along the principles of traditional urban form, essentially emulating the urban structures that existed prior to the emergence of post war planning and suburban growth dominated by the car. This means a return to



Article:

Expanding the use of Simplified Planning Zones



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Monica Forde MRTPI, Planning Consultant for Ryden.

The Scottish Government recently published Ryden's research report on the 'Use of Simplified Planning Zones (SPZs) and equivalent mechanisms used out with Scotland'. The report was produced by Ryden's Planning & Research team with input from Brodies solicitors.

The research was commissioned in response to Recommendation 14 from 'Empowering planning to deliver great places: An independent review of the Scottish planning system,' published in May 2016. It assessed the potential for a more flexible and widely applicable land use zoning mechanism than SPZs currently provide, including for housing.

SPZ regulations have been in place since the late 1980s, and they have mostly supported regeneration and employment. An SPZ removes the need to apply for planning permission for certain types of specified development, including; alterations, extensions and new build.

Benefits of SPZs include; a streamlined planning process, saving time, money and providing certainty for investors and stakeholders, yet their use has been limited until the Hillington Park SPZ in 2014. The Hillington Park SPZ has already supported sustainable economic growth in the Park through £25m investment across existing premises, new build, accessibility and public realm. This was then followed by the Renfrew Town Centre SPZ which supports business and town centre living.

More recently, the Scottish Government

awarded SPZ housing pilot status and funding in late 2016 to: North Ayrshire, Dumfries & Galloway and Argyll & Bute Councils; each seeks to diversify housing supply and delivery, for example to include self-build, affordable housing and SME housebuilders.

The research assessed barriers to greater use of SPZs such as preparation timescales and protected area exclusions. The recommendations are based on detailed research, consultation and analysis of Scottish SPZs and similar mechanisms in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe.

Examples across the UK which might be replicated in Scotland are typically planning interventions seeking to attract investment to employment sites, regeneration areas and to promote alternative housing tenures and formats. However, English Local Development

Orders in particular are more localised and adaptable than Scottish SPZs can offer.

The key principles of the findings are reflected in the aim of the recent

Technical Paper (September 2017) to promote 'Simplified Development Zones' (SDZs) as a more strategic zoning approach to housing allocations and strengthening the development plan.

Proposed changes include:

- Encourage preparation of SDZs as part of the development plan and delivery process,
- Introduce powers for Scottish ministers to direct planning authorities to make an SDZ scheme,

- Remove current restrictions in primary legislation meaning certain designated areas cannot be included in an SDZ (e.g. conservation areas, national scenic area),
- Remove restriction on SDZs for development where an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required,
- Align SDZs with other consents (e.g. listed building consent, conservation area consent, RCC),
- Enable SDZ schemes to be prepared jointly between other parties e.g. landowner/ developer and the planning authority,
- Develop further details in terms of preparation and operation to allow for greater flexibility.

The new Simplified Development Zone mechanism looks beyond planning controls to enable successful delivery of development. Landowners, developers and communities can engage early in the planning process around an inclusive vision for an area, speeding up economic activity and regeneration areas and helping to accelerate and diversify housing markets. ■



Photo Credit: South-East of Scotland Transport Partnership

Update: Scottish Government News



Stromness Primary School. Photo Credit: Orkney Islands Council

Progress towards the Planning Bill

We are close to the introduction of a Planning Bill into the Scottish Parliament. This is not only the culmination of over two years work. The Bill is just one important step towards a planning system which delivers the development Scotland needs with the infrastructure to support it. The key themes work towards a simpler, more effective system. Procedures for preparing plans will be improved and communities will have better opportunities to influence the future of their areas.

To support Bill preparation, the working groups were brought together in October to discuss four key themes. A technical paper was published and is available to view online.

We would encourage you to look at the proposals when they are published and continue to engage as we shape Scotland's future planning system.

Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning

On 8 November 2017 Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government and Housing, presented the Awards at this year's Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning. The Awards are one of the Government's most prestigious awards. They celebrate achievements in planning, from the detail of processing to larger regeneration projects. Having shortlisted 22 projects in the four categories of Partnership, Place, Plans and Process, the judges recognised 16 projects with awards for 2017.



SAQP Overall Winner - Team Stromness project

Overall Winner

The Judges have recognised Orkney Islands Council with an Overall Award for its Team Stromness project. The judges considered that this was an exemplary Urban Design Framework delivering on the ground. The Council's passion to see Stromness modernise whilst maintaining its historical elegance was to be congratulated.

You can view an interactive map featuring all the 22 shortlisted projects, plus judges' comments on webpage below:
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1c8r-ZT8EBYlktwiQzSoFEGFbts07-mbD&ll=56.9909775893981%2C-3.315687812500073&z=7>

People's Choice in Planning Award
Congratulations also go to Cairngorms National Park Authority which picked up the People's Choice in Planning Award for its Snow Roads Scenic Routes Initiative.



till 1st December 2017. The Minister also announced a £4m self-build loan fund which will offer financial assistance to people who want to build their own home. Following a review of the self-build loan fund pilot in Highland area, the fund will be available in autumn 2018 across Scotland.

Legislative changes

The Town and Country Planning (Fees for Monitoring Surface Coal Mining Sites) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, are due to come into force on the 1st January 2018. These Regulations permit planning authorities to recover some of the costs associated with monitoring opencast coal sites from operators. The monitoring fee for an active site is £500 per site per visit and £250 for inactive sites.

The maximum number of chargeable visits a planning authority can make, for both active and inactive sites, is restricted to 8 within a 12 month period. A new planning circular with guidance on the 2017 Regulations will be published shortly.

Making Places initiative

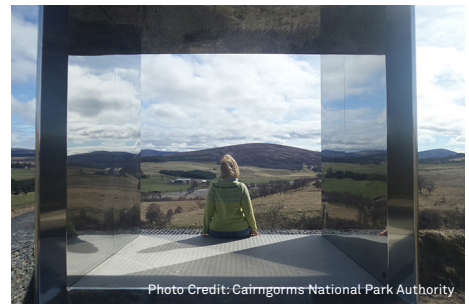
In September we launched the Making Places Initiative to encourage communities to positively and actively contribute to the development of their local places. Making Places represents a broadening of the charrette mainstreaming programme to support communities at all stages of their thinking. This will provide:

- 1. Support for communities keen to develop their understanding of place and build their skills and confidence.
- 2. Grant funding to support communities to participate in and lead design events, such as workshops and charrettes.
- 3. Support for communities to help deliver ideas produced in previous community engagement processes.

We are currently considering the applications and details of the projects to be supported will be published shortly. ■

Challenge Fund – Self and Custom Build Housing

At the SAQP ceremony the Minister confirmed that the new Challenge Fund that will support pilot projects for self and custom build housing was open for applications



Update:

RTPI Scotland Update



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RTPI Scotland has been involved in the following:

- Mackay Hannah conference on a 360 Degree Planning system
- Urban Institute event on 3rd Party Rights of Appeal
- Paths for All masterclass with Brent Toderian on Doing Density Well
- National Transport Leaders Forum
- Scottish Government event with Heads of Planning Scotland
- Heads of Planning Scotland Executive Committee
- Federation of Master Builders Housing event at Scottish Parliament
- National Association on Planning Enforcement network annual conference
- Scottish Government Joint Housing Policy and Delivery Group
- Scottish Parliament Finance and Constitution Committee evidence session on Brexit
- Scottish Government Planning Bill workshops
- Holyrood conference on Increasing Affordable Housing Supply
- Built Environment Scotland Historic Environment Working Group
- Scottish Parliament Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee evidence session on air quality

MEDIA

In September the Director spoke on BBC radio and TV responding to a speech by Scottish Conservatives leader Ruth Davidson where she had called for a number of new towns to be built across Scotland. Speaking on the John Beattie programme, he outlined how new towns may be part of the answer but it was also necessary to explore how best to use existing derelict land, to extend existing towns and cities, and to look at how best make best use of existing vacant properties. On Reporting Scotland he highlighted the need for a new approach to providing infrastructure.

News releases have been issued on:

Scottish Alliance for People and Places

RTPI Scotland has become a founding member of a new Scottish Alliance for People and Places.

RTPI Scotland welcomes confirmation of Planning Bill

RTPI Scotland has welcomed the First Minister's confirmation in her Programme for Government that the Planning Bill remains a priority.

The @RTPIScotland twitter account now has 3264 followers and the @ConvenorRTPI account has 1098 followers.

The following have been posted on the RTPI Scotland blog (see www.rtpiscotland.blog)

- **Planning is back – but in which direction is it headed?** Luke Slattery gives his view of this year's RTPI annual conference The New Agenda: Planners as Visionaries, Facilitators and Enablers,
- **A Satirical View on the Planning Review – It's all up Bill Planning Now!** Jim Birrell provides a lighthearted take on the planning
- **Don't miss this year's Licentiate APC workshops**
- **My Town, the New Town** Michael Kordas, shares his thoughts on a recent Chapter Event held in Glasgow.

RTPI SCOTLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The RTPI Scotland Annual conference took place on 3 October in Edinburgh. Entitled "The New Agenda: Planners as Visionaries, Facilitators and Enablers" it will take the context of the forthcoming Planning Bill and the New urban Agenda. The conference looked at the key issues we face in Scotland to develop an agenda for change. It discussed opportunities, challenges faced and the new thinking and doing required from inspirational and forward thinking people. Speakers included Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Housing and Local Government; Cliff Hague, Chair of the Cockburn Society; Anne McCall, Director of RSP Scotland; Gordon Watson, Chief Executive of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park; Oonagh Gil, Head of Enterprise and Cities in Scottish Government; Jennifer Wallace, Head of Policy at Carnegie UK Trust; and Janice Morphet from UCL. Around 120 people attended and feedback has been excellent. A write up of the event can be read at <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/the-rtpi-near-you/rtpi-scotland/events/rtpi-scotland-annual-conference/>

RTPI Scotland's Chapters all continue to provide low cost or free CPD to members across the country, with around 50 events scheduled to take place in 2017.

Fellowships

Congratulations go to RTPI Scotland members Kevin Murray and Stefano Smith who have recently been elected to fellowship of the Institute.

Outstanding Service Awards

Congratulations also go to RTPI Scotland members John McCarthy and Iram Mohammed who have been awarded outstanding service awards by the Institute in particular for their contribution to the development and implementation of the new routes to membership arrangements.

Update:

Scottish Young Planners' Network



Lesley McVeigh, MRTPI, SYPN Chair 2017/18

I'm pleased to report that as the end of the year approaches the SYPN has been exceptionally busy both delivering and scheduling the programme for 2018.

The network is keen to encourage young planners to join as early as possible, and we have delivered presentations to new planning students across Scotland. In September we held well attended Assessment of Professional Competence events in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. Thank you to all the individuals who helped deliver these events, and we wish all APC candidates success with their submissions.

Our Past Chair, Elaine Fotheringham, organised a sell-out event in September looking at Heat Networks. Both our East and West -based legal updates were another

sell-out success and thanks again to Burness Paul, and Shepherd + Wedderburn for their continued support of these events. Please feel free to contact us if there are any subjects you would like to see covered by the SYPN events programme.

The SYPN steering group is now working hard to draw up a programme for an annual conference in 2018 which as thought provoking as ever. Given the year on year success of the SYPN conference, we will be progressing a bid to host the UK-wide Young Planners conference in 2019. We hope that you will support this bid, and please do get in touch if there are any topics or challenges facing young planners that you think we should tackle. Last month I had the opportunity to give a 'soap box' presentation

at the Young Planners Conference in Manchester, and the steering group is keen to explore in more depth how a conference held in Scotland could promote knowledge sharing between the UK nations and regions.

Finally, I'm pleased to say that as Chair of the SYPN I have been invited to sit on the Scottish Government's Planning Digital Task Force. Chaired by the Minister for Housing and Local Government, the group is charged with looking for opportunities for digital transformation in planning process and delivery.

Update:

RTPI Training Programme 2018



Learning from best practice – The Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning

On 7 March, the Scottish Award winners for Quality in Planning will be sharing best practice and lessons learnt. This briefing will provide an opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge on what they achieved and what they would do differently – looking at the problem each award winner faced; the solution they devised; how they implemented this and what the result was.

RTPI's guide to current issues in the planning system

On 30 May, RTPI will be sharing its hot topics for the coming year, including developments in global issues. The briefing will open with an update from Scottish Government and include the implications of the planning review.

CPD

CPD is essential for all planners, with this in mind; each course is uniquely tailored to the needs of planners and linked to the RTPI's CPD priorities. Designed for all professionals working in the planning environment, the **masterclasses** and **briefings** offer an opportunity for delegates to share ideas and find solutions and practical tips to everyday work challenges.

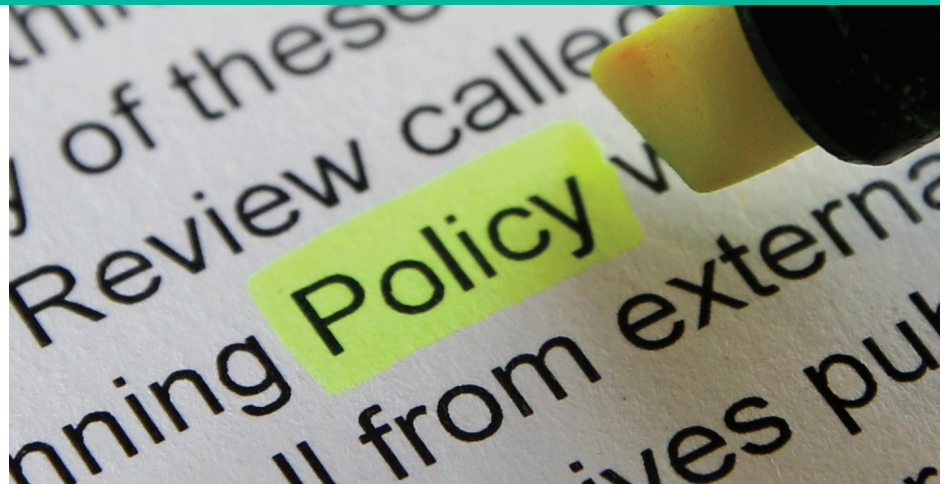
Make the most of your training budget

Prices for 2018 onwards will start from as little as £199 + VAT. Pre-buy training places with the RTPI's multi-buy option offers greater flexibility and will support organisations to allocate their training budgets. In Edinburgh, all courses will be held in the Edinburgh Training and Conference venue.



To find out more, register for updates and book online visit: rtpi.org.uk/training, email: training@rtpi.org.uk or speak to the dedicated in-house training team on +44(0)20 7929 8400.

Update: Policy Update



RTPI Scotland aims to lead thinking in how planning can create great places for people. We do this by:

- responding to policy consultations from Scottish Government, agencies and other organisations; and
- discussing planning issues with policy makers including Ministers, MSPs and Civil Servants.

We are always keen to receive comments from members on any policy issues. Please contact Kate Houghton, RTPI Scotland's Planning Policy and Practice Officer, on kate.houghton@rtpi.org.uk if you would like contribute to our responses to national consultations.

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Policy Subcommittee met on 8 November to discuss the approach that RTPI Scotland should take once the Planning Bill has been laid in the Scottish Parliament. There was also discussion on which areas of wider policy interest should be of focus for the Institute during 2018, including the review of the National Transport Strategy, Land Reform, Inclusive Growth and local governance reform.

FINANCIAL AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

In October the Policy and Practice Officer participated in a roundtable evidence session of the Scottish Parliament Finance and Constitution Committee, as part of their inquiry into the impact of the EU (Withdrawal) Bill on the devolution settlement. The RTPI does not take a stance on constitutional issues, but used this opportunity to stress that the repatriation of in particular environmental regulation to the UK following exit from the EU should be designed to fit comfortably with the four different planning systems operating in each of the UK nations. The planning process is a good example of a system shaped by both devolved domestic law and law transposed from EU directives, demonstrating the complexity of ensuring how due process will be maintained following the UK's departure from the EU.

RTPI NATIONS PANEL

On 14 November Chairs of the Policy committees operating in each of the UK nations, along with relevant RTPI staff, met in London to discuss policy priorities across the nations, and therefore how collective efforts might be coordinated. As alluded to above Brexit in particular has brought to the fore how the planning systems of the four nations have diverged since the UK joined the EU in the 1970s. This perhaps only reiterates the importance of sharing knowledge and best practice in the interests of achieving the best for planners and the planning system.

POLICY RESPONSES

All RTPI Scotland policy consultation responses can be read on the RTPI website at www.rtpi.org.uk/scotland. Between October and December 2017 we submitted the following responses:

- Submission of evidence to the Scottish Parliament Local Government and Communities Committee inquiry into the Draft Budget 2018-19
- Submission of evidence to the Scottish Parliament Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee inquiry into Scotland's Economic Performance
- Scottish Government Consultation on Building Scotland's Low Emissions Zones

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Planning for Scotland: citizen views

November 2017
National Trust for Scotland

Edinburgh: A global city in demand

Published November 2017
Savills Research

Planning Review: Analysis of Position Statement Responses

Published October 2017
Scottish Government

Help to Buy: Administrative Procedures

Published October 2017
Scottish Government

Talking Fracking: A Consultation on Unconventional Oil and Gas – Analysis of Responses

Published October 2017
Scottish Government

Smart City Regions

Published September 2017
RTPI

RTPI SCOTLAND CONTACTS



**Stefano Smith, FRTPI
Convenor**

Stefano chairs the Scottish Executive Committee and the Scottish Forum for Planning. He also represents RTPI Scotland at the RTPI General Assembly, and sits on the RTPI Education and Life Long Learning Committee. He is also an RTPI Ambassador.

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Director**

Craig leads on public affairs, stakeholder relationships, development of CPD and skills, and communications. He is Co-Editor of Scottish Planner and Secretariat to the Communications Education and Lifelong Learning Sub Committee.

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**Kate Houghton
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Planning Policy and Practice Officer
Responsible for policy development, responding to policy consultations, production of Scottish Planner, Scottish Young Planners' Network and communications. Co-Editor of Scottish Planner and the Secretariat to Policy Sub Committee.

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