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Royal Town Planning Institute



Planning for Climate Change: Mitigation and Adaptation

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Editorial

Welcome to the Spring 2018 edition of the Scottish Planner. At the time of writing this it certainly doesn't feel spring-like given the freezing temperatures, blizzards and thunder snow that has come our way. This is, perhaps, a useful link to the theme of this issue of the journal – climate change...

We keep getting told that climate change is the big issue we face. So what are planners doing about it and what are the challenges we face? This edition of the Scottish Planner will hopefully go some way to stimulating that debate and shining a light on the good things that planners are doing.

Scottish Government recently published their new Climate Change Plan and, given this we are delighted that Graham Marchbank and Graeme Dickson have given us a 'hot-off-the-presses' reaction to it which we feature as our main article. The journal also features some excellent examples of how planners and planning are working to mitigate or adapt places to climate change including the ClydePlan Flood Risk Management Tool; work

Historic Environment Scotland have been undertaking on the risk climate change poses to our historic buildings; and new advice on renewables from RTPI. We also look to the work going on across the globe with a useful piece on the 100 Resilient Cities network and finally Colin Lavety from Barton Willmore provides a useful practitioners viewpoint.

Another important issue for the profession in Scotland is the Planning Bill, which is currently being scrutinised by Parliament. RTPI Scotland has been heavily engaged with this and we are currently working to ensure key issues around the new National Planning Framework, regional planning, community engagement and resourcing planning are dealt with properly. Kate Houghton gives a brief update on our work on page 17 but do keep an eye on our twitter account [@RTPIScotland](https://twitter.com/RTPIScotland); our webpages at www.rtpi.org.uk/scotland and the our blog (rtpiscotland.blog) for more regular bulletins. — Craig McLaren, Co-Editor

Convenor's Comments: Planning with diversity

Fraser Carlin makes the case for planners to reach the full diversity of Scotland's communities.

Hello and welcome to my first Convenor's Comments.

As a way of introduction, aside from my role as Convenor of RTPI Scotland, I am the Head of Planning & Housing at Renfrewshire Council with too many years of experience working for local authorities across the UK. It's this experience that I hope to use to benefit the work of the RTPI and profession during 2018.

This year is already turning out to be one of the most interesting for our profession: At the macro level we ponder and wrestle with the uncertainties of Brexit while on a more operational level we seek to engage as a profession with colleagues, communities, and politicians in shaping the new Planning (Scotland) Act that we expect to emerge later this year.

And it is in this context that I see the clear role for the RTPI in ensuring that the wider profession meets the needs of all communities and in particular, those that are currently less involved with the operations of the planning system.

In this respect, I would like to see an emphasis on planners working for and with a younger demographic and sectors of society that in my experience are often disenfranchised, as opposed to those who are already well versed in how to influence decisions about development.

It is the Year of Young People, and more

than ever we should consider what we are doing for children to ensure that we create places where they can thrive and enjoy healthy lifestyles. We should be working to meet the needs of people moving into adulthood so that they have a chance to become independent citizens who while they may not be able to afford to buy property at least have the opportunity to rent good quality and secure accommodation.

In addition to this we need to consider how we work with groups such as Gypsies and Gypsy Travellers whose needs in my opinion are not properly met by our public policy. Too often minority groups have to face planning in a confrontational mode, as opposed to as a means of working positively to secure appropriate locations to raise their families and access employment.

The Planning Bill and the ensuing regulations provide an opportunity to address the gap between housing policy and planning practice: Currently we face the dichotomy of a general agreement on the need to provide housing, but, the system within which we operate is peppered with obstacles that hinder the development we need (and often nothing to do with planning itself).

One such obstacle is a culture in which there is a popular assumption that development is a bad thing, always to be resisted. Planners have an opportunity to look afresh at how we work with the whole range of

communities of place, and of interest, across Scotland, to make sure that we are delivering development that is truly in the public interest and meets the needs of all current and future generations

I recently Chaired the Scottish Young Planners Conference and was struck by the enthusiasm and drive of our young professionals. It's vital that we harness this energy to identify the firebrands and leaders of the next generation of planners and to get more young people involved in our discussions and debate.

So, let's make 2018 the year when planners articulate the voice of new and diverse communities and seek to create legislation and policies that show the value of planning and in doing so create places, homes and open spaces that meet the needs of future generations. ■



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Article: Climate Change Plan 2018-2032



Graham Marchbank
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RTPI Scotland
Executive Committee

Graham Marchbank, corporate member of the RTPI Scottish Executive Committee and **Graeme Dickson**, 2020 Climate Group member, brief Scottish Planner on the new Climate Change Plan (third Report on Proposals and Policies) and its implications for planning.

The Climate Change Plan (CCP) has been published as required by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, rolling the preceding Report on Proposals and Policies 2 forward five years to 2032.

The CCP was conceived with the aid of the Climate Change Advisory Group including RTPI Scotland representation. In a welcome change, planning focuses on place-making and collaboration on strategy. There's also a nod to community empowerment with opportunities for local place plans to access funding e.g. from the Climate Challenge Fund. There is now sectoral information on planning and more detail than before. Heat mapping – a key success in RPP2 benefitting development planning is no longer mentioned.

RPP2 was heavy on proposals; relatively weak in comparison to firm policies. However with progress made, the CCP seems a more confident combination of policy and intent. There's been some rebranding of sector headings since RPP2 and the publication of the Energy Strategy.

Identifying and developing missing low-carbon infrastructure at a domestic scale and in buildings, locally in heat networks and energy centres but also strategically and nationally is highlighted. But the CCP is short on detail about energy storage, stating only that there will be work with BEIS and Ofgem

to deliver a Plan that works for Scotland, and exploration of electric vehicles and storage.

The **Pathway to 2032** sees green electricity penetrating heat and transport, a focus on energy efficiency e.g. heat pumps and district heating and HGVs operating from out-of-town consolidation centres.

In the **Electricity** sector, the message is cautionary, focussing on managing adverse impacts [from renewable technologies] through the planning process. At least 1GW of renewable energy will be in community or local ownership by 2020.

For **Buildings**, climate change benefits e.g. in conservation areas still require scrutiny.

While that's right, a purist's approach in the past has led to frustrations. The CCP states permission will still be required for energy efficiency measures affecting the external appearance of non-residential buildings. That will require further work to be truly transformational.

For **Transport**, policy on electric vehicles will be supported by changes such as permitted development rights for on-street charging points (although the CCP also suggests this has been done). Ahead of a decision on whether charging points will be a feature of building standards, the CCP refers to the proposal (possibly led by Transport Scotland) to consider developing planning guidance on charge-point provision in new

residential and commercial developments. That could all have been clearer rather than deferring to the forthcoming review of NPF3 and SPP. Otherwise what stands out for planning and transport is 'Designing Streets' as a nod to active travel.

Industrial clustering will help to decrease costs by sharing infrastructure, such as district heating networks.

On **Waste** there is a reference to improving infrastructure capacity information for use by planning authorities and industry; although there's no timetable.

Land use, land use change and forestry are often thought marginal to planning, but there could be better "customer focus" on this sector. The National Peatland Plan guides planning decisions. By 2030, the CCP sees the restoration of 250,000 hectares of degraded peatland. Woodlands will contribute to flood management. The CCP refers to compensatory planting policy where a change of land use under planning allows woodland removal to deliver significant public benefit. But there's nothing on protecting prime agricultural land.

Forestry and woodland strategies can be prepared by planning authorities but this is only advisory, with support from Forestry Commission Scotland. Doubts remain about skills and capacity on climate change amongst seems to be in some doubt as is capacity on climate change amongst competing priorities for strategic planning under planning reform.

"Climate change is not a choice but sustainable development is."

In terms of **Agriculture** Anaerobic digesters (AD) on farm co-operatives will create critical mass and consolidation. The CCP relies on assurances that consultation requirements linked to consenting can address community concerns about new AD plants. Notably agriculture, forestry and peat turned a corner in 2015 from a carbon source to a net carbon sink.

To conclude, does the CCP enable planning to support transformation? There are welcome signs but some mixed messages. The CCP contains no maps: surprising, given regional disparities and calls for user-friendliness concerning adaptation to coastal

erosion, flooding and landslip or opportunities for forestry, woodland and agriculture to sequester carbon.

The dissolution of the 2020 Climate Group this March could weaken efforts on transformational change - which lay at the heart of its leadership role for our low-carbon future (q.v. NPF3) particularly with business. Uncertainties about strategic planning remain, however the CCP does refer to the Sustainable Scotland Network and its role in The Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting mechanism which can assist strategic planning.

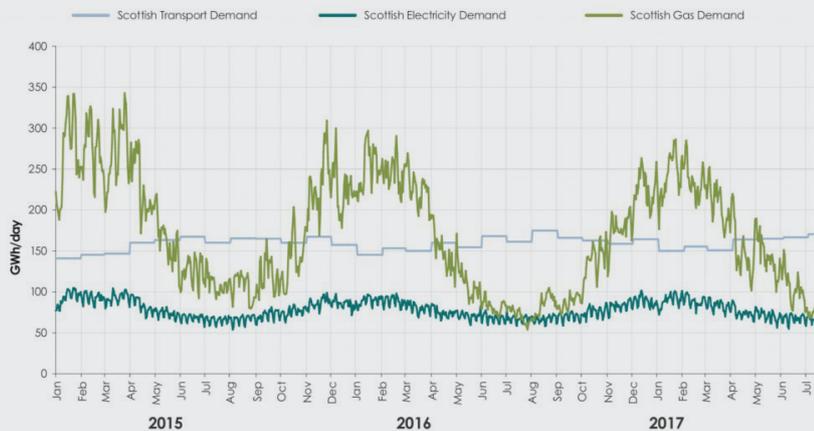
The CCP's ministerial foreword notes 2018

is the Year of Young People. The contribution of young people from Glasgow Youth Council, the Scottish Young Planners Network and the 2050 Climate Group was recognised at last year's European Climate Change Adaptation Conference in Glasgow.

Communities are up for action too and can be energised to discuss change in a climate conversation. A plea was made at the last Place Standard Alliance for climate-readiness to be added to the topics for discussion say at charrettes, in the Place Standard's next iteration.

RTPI Scotland remarked in its submission to parliament on the draft CCP, on the presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development.

Diagram 7
Yearly Pattern of Energy Consumption



'Diagram 7' above from the Energy Strategy showing the last three years' energy consumption indicates that everything under the green line (gas) will need to be progressively decarbonised.

Graeme Dickson reports that:

"The bottom blue line shows current electricity consumption over a three-year period. The light blue line above it shows the equivalent energy required by transport: it is about 1.5 times current electricity use. If we are to electrify all cars and light vehicles, it will require both substantial additional carbon-free generation capacity, and considerable strengthening of local distribution networks to power electric vehicle charging.

It will be a very challenging technical project. It will require both large scale investment by businesses, and coordination with local government planners and utilities. The electrification of heating, perhaps through widespread use of air source

heat pumps takes the challenge to a further level. As Diagram 7 shows, energy demand for heat (in green) ranges from about 3.5 times present electrical demand in winter to roughly the same demand on a warm summer day. Taking that course will require even greater additional capacity – over three times current – and considerable redundancy of supply over summer periods.

Countries with a great use of district heating systems have looked at building seasonal storage to even out demand. Scotland currently has very little district heating, and the idea of demand management or storage at a household level looks limited in its capacity.

The low carbon energy transition will require massive private investment. If that is to be attracted to Scotland, we require a planning and regulatory regime that facilitates the change to low carbon.

Imagine trying to roll out your network EV charging points in 32 local authorities!"

“The CCP contains no maps: surprising, given regional disparities and calls for user-friendliness.”

Perhaps it is time for that to be revisited, accounting for UN sustainable development goals on affordable and clean energy; industry, innovation and infrastructure; sustainable cities and communities; climate action and; life on land: all central to planning. Climate change is also enshrined in Habitat III's New Urban Agenda.

Climate change is not a choice but sustainable development is. Silo mentalities frustrate transformation. With ever-increasing layering, whether it's the CCP, development plans, local place plans, locality plans or city deals; matching them is ultra-complex. Sustainable development through spatial planning can bring that together. It will have to, as all eyes turn to spring's "more ambitious than 2009" Climate Change Bill. ■



Graeme Dickson
Board Member
Scotland's 2020
Climate Group

Q&A

Public Enquiries



Lesley McVeigh
MRTPI
Strategic Land, Taylor
Wimpey West of
Scotland

Lesley McVeigh MRTPI, Strategic Land at Taylor Wimpey West Scotland and 2017/18 Chair of the Scottish Young Planners' Network, answers our questions.

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

My team manager at North Ayrshire Council, David Hammond, undoubtedly had a profound impact on my career. David's approach to working collaboratively with all sectors influenced my own interests and career path. David always encouraged me to think out of the box and fully supported my own desire to challenge the way we, as planners, work, think and adapt to our ever-changing economy. My interest in how we can promote the benefits that planning was influenced by Pam Ewen (@happyplanner1). Pam's enthusiasm for planning is a true inspiration. Most recently I had the pleasure of meeting Farrah Qureshi, CEO of Global Diversity Practice. Farrah challenged me to think about my own perspective and to consider unconscious bias, which is a truly mind-blowing topic. In planning we all make decisions on a regular basis in a variety of contexts, the impact of unconscious bias or the lack of understanding of this is, in my view, is having a significant impact on the delivery of the planning service as well as the behaviour and attitudes of those who interact with the planning service.

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

Planners are constantly challenged on the decisions we make, or don't make, across all sectors. I think the biggest issue facing the profession is the need to work better together. Whilst we can't keep everyone happy we can demonstrate an appreciation of each other's positions and skills, to work more effectively together. The variety of different types of planning and the ability of planners to work in specialist areas is one of the reasons that I became a planner, and so why is there so often a lack of appreciation of each other's skills and views?

3 Why is planning important?

Planning is important because it acts in the public interest. It is easy to forget how important planning is, especially when the media often present planning in a negative context. The way in which our places are planned has delivered successful and sustainable places for generations; because of great planning. Planning ensures that places are created for people and when this works well, it is almost invisible. Places that are well planned, are well used and taken care of. Planning can increase and support people's wellbeing and support people to lead healthier lifestyles, through simple planning decisions such as the positioning of a bus stop or creating a path which links a housing development to the local park.

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

There are so many great places in Scotland that this is tough to answer with just one example. The regeneration of Crown Street and the wider regeneration of the Gorbals area since 1990 is an example which shows how planning plays a key role in creating places for people and leading the campaign to create better places. This development has influenced the wider regeneration of the area with live residential developments at Lauriston as well as committed funding to support the historic Citizen's Theatre, from Glasgow City Council. This commitment to creating better places has been led and driven by planners.

5 What has been the highlight of your year as SYPN Chair?

I have had an incredible year as the SYPN Chair. Being invited to join the Scottish Government's Digital Task Force, to represent young planners, has been a great experience. Being asked to represent the views of your peers is a great honour and the work of the Task Force has influenced this year's SYPN Conference theme 'The Changing Face of Planning: Planning Ahead'. As SYPN Chair I have been able to meet so many motivating and interesting professionals, it has been a fantastic year and I am looking forward to hearing about the outcome of our bid to host the UK Young Planners' Conference in 2019. ■

Immaterial Considerations

An irreverent look at the world of planning...



Call the Shots on Planning

We were intrigued to read about a play about planning where the audience directed actors. An audience of around 100 people attended the Making a Difference event organised by Hertsmere Community Safety Partnership and Aldenham Parish Council where audience members directed members of the Arc Theatre as they reacted to plans for new housing developments. This innovative approach to community engagement was welcomed with participants wanting more meetings such as this one and including more residents, so ideas and complaints can be raised.

Hertsmere Borough Council's community safety officer Valerie Kane said: "The council, like other public service bodies, has limited resources and so events like this are vital if we want to continue to serve the needs and aspirations of our communities.... from these early conversations, we hope will spring real, positive change."

Aldenham parish councillor Estelle Samuelson said: "The interactive play gave people an opportunity to discuss local issues in a relaxed atmosphere. Looking at the evaluation forms completed on the night it appears most of those who attended felt it was a worthwhile experience." So, in the spirit of this, should the Planning Bill be looking to establishing Local Place Plays rather than Local Place Plans?

Princess or Planner?

In trawling the internet we came across this image on the Daily Dose of Architecture blog. It's from 2004's The Legend of Frosty the Snowman, "told and sung by Burt Reynolds." The character, pictured at the end of the cartoon, is Sara Simple, one of the kids of Evergreen, where "magic, silliness, and nonsense of all kinds are strictly against the rules." Earlier she asserts to her mum, "I don't want to be a princess—I want to be an urban planner!"



Philip Sim
@BBCPhilipSim

Following

Off school/work because of the snow? Why not tuck yourself up with a hot drink and enjoy live coverage of Holyrood's local government committee discussing planning regulations...



MSPs discuss Planning Bill
The Local Government and Communities Committee takes evidence on the Planning (Scotland) Bill.
bbc.co.uk

9:42 AM - 28 Feb 2018

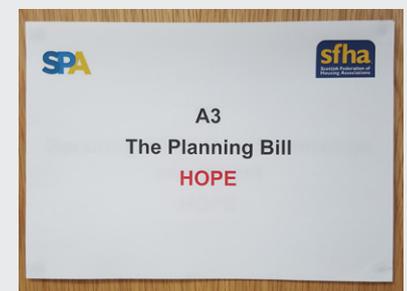


TV Reviews

BBC Politics Correspondent Philip Sim recently took to Twitter to encourage his followers to tune in to the BBC to watch the Local Government Committee evidence session on the Planning Bill.

We're sure, ahem, that he wasn't in the slightest bit sarcastic, but were disappointed to see reactions to his tweet including "Eh, naw, yer awrite, clipping my nails to the quick sounds more appealing" "I'd rather chew tinfoil" "Can you just give me 2 minutes while I shove my wet hand in the toaster" "I'd rather poke at my eyes with cocktail sticks".

Looks like we've still got some work to do convincing some people that planning is interesting and important...



Hopeful thoughts

RTPI Scotland Director Craig McLaren recently spoke about the Planning Bill at a workshop at the Scottish Federation of Housing Association's Development conference. It looked like it took place in an appropriately named room.



In Focus: High Hedges

Alastair Hamilton of Fife Council Planning and Vice Convenor of the HOPS Development Management Committee looks at the recent review by the Communities and Local Government Committee.



Alastair Hamilton
MRTPI
Service Manager
Development
Management
Fife Council

The application of the High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013 has presented challenges to which planners have had to adapt. For those planning authorities required to administer it the legal and technical differences between the Act and “normal” planning legislation have required a new approach to the assessment of planning applications.

Particularly significant are the appeal decisions citing that a view can be a material consideration in the assessment of the amenity impacts considered as part of a High Hedge application. In addition the assessment can be even more subjective than that of for example the design merits of a house extension. Although the assessment of amenity impact in relation to overshadowing uses the BRE guidance on Daylight and Sunlight as a best practice guide, other issues such as identifying the extent of impact on the enjoyment of a garden are more esoteric, and therefore a planner’s balance of judgement comes into play.

The Bill provided for a formal review of the practical outcome and implications arising from the Act to be held by the Local Government and Communities Committee after two years. To this end, I along with two colleagues (Kevin Wright, Planner, Aberdeen City Council & Paul Kettles, Enforcement Officer, Perth and Kinross) attended the meeting of the LGC Committee at the Scottish Parliament on the 10th May 2017 to provide the officer’s perspective on the implementation of the Act. Other interested parties also contributed to the Committee review process.

Having not participated in a Government call for evidence or Committee process before it was an interesting and enlightening

experience, which gave a direct insight into what the aspirations of the MSPs who had promoted the Act intended it to achieve. Participation also provided the opportunity to influence directly the development of the legislation to refine areas where it was not performing and or achieving as expected. I would recommend participation in this process to anyone should the opportunity arise, particularly for those of us involved in delivering legislation it is a valuable process.

It was clear that many committee members were passionate about the problems experienced by their constituents affected by high hedges and were motivated to ensure that the legislation was applied as broadly as possible to achieve results. Some members also expressed a view that it should be widened to encompass high trees. Through the question and answer sessions Kevin, Paul and I gave practical examples of where the legislation has not delivered the outcome anticipated. Of particular concern to us and committee members was the situation where the removal of ‘every other’ plant meant that what at the time of the High Hedge application being submitted was legally a hedge, subsequently during the consideration of the application was no longer a hedge but a row of separate plants. Thus while the neighbour may still be affected by the height of individual plants this could not be addressed through the High Hedge Legislation. Other queries arose relating to whether the legislation applied where the hedge had not originally been planted with the intention of being a hedge, and some authorities were taking a view that the legislation was not relevant in these circumstances.

The key findings of the Committee were that:

- The Scottish Government should publish revised guidance setting out that applications should be considered in terms of the impact of the vegetation rather than whether or not the barrier was originally planted as a hedge. In addition, the revised guidance should encourage local authorities to be flexible when considering High Hedge applications, while still adhering to their green space strategies.
- The cost of the application should be recoverable from the hedge owner where an application has been successful, such that the local authority can reimburse the applicant.
- The Committee recommends that there should be consistent data collected on the use of High Hedges Act to measure if the Act is effective in the future and that the Scottish Government should take steps to achieve this. ■

The outcome of the LGC committee review was published on 10th September 2017 (http://www.parliament.scot/Reports/20170910_HighHedgesActReport.pdf) and transcripts of the hearing are available online on the Scottish Government website. The Minister for Local Government and Housing issued the Scottish Government’s response to the LGC Committee recommendations on 26th October 2017. These can be viewed at: www.parliament.scot/S5_Local_Gov/Inquiries/20171027_HHA_ScotGovtResponse.pdf; www.parliament.scot/gettinginvolved/103417.aspx

In Practice:

Delivering the Nucleus Project in Wick

Malcolm Macleod, Head of Planning & Environment at Highland Council reflects on the award winning delivery of this landmark building.

One of the successful projects at the 2017 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning was the Nucleus building which has been developed in Wick, Caithness. The judges felt that the Highland Council's management of the application process was an excellent example of facilitating development from pre-application stage to completion on the ground in a tight timescale.

The proposal was subject to pre-application discussions with relevant consultees, coordinated by the Council using our major applications pre-application service. This promoted a partnership approach and professional knowledge sharing at the outset, not just between Council Services but also with external consultees including SEPA and Scottish Natural Heritage.

The building will hold between 20 and 30 million digital records and around 28,000 linear metres of paper and photographic records primarily concerning the history, development and decommissioning of the UK's civil nuclear industry since the 1940s. The Caithness Archive has also been relocated to the new facility. The need for this facility was identified in 2008 when the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) announced plans to create the new archive in Caithness. This followed consideration of other sites throughout the UK. Working in

partnership with The Highland Council, the application site was identified on an existing industrial estate adjacent to Wick Airport.

From the outset the NDA wished to create a facility of international significance that provided a positive impact on the local community and which created a building of local and national civic pride. The successful architects Reiach and Hall set about designing the building taking the influence of the rugged coastline surrounding the Caithness area. The design is bold utilizing a triangular footprint and quality materials/landscaping, comprising neutrals, with occasional contrasting black. The plan is perforated by three large triangular courts, comprising pools lined with Caithness stone, reflecting and shifting light internally. The building incorporates sustainable design elements.

The Judges felt this was a wonderful, strong and robust piece of architecture. There was no doubt that it was built to last – which was an important factor in considering its precious cultural and built heritage contents. In order to deliver the development, on time, the planning team moved quickly and effectively to deliver.

The application was managed using a Processing Agreement. Given the importance of the project from a local and a national

perspective it was pleasing that the application was determined 6 weeks from validation. This was testament to the close working between Council officers and the agents GVA Grimley. We supported it post-determination to ensure timeous discharge of conditions, continuing the established project management and partnership working.

The development has regenerated a brownfield site adjacent to Wick Airport. Regeneration of this site has aesthetic and social/economic benefits, providing 30 jobs and a community facility. We are proud of the role the planning system played in ensuring that the development has been positive for the area as a whole, and that the judges have reflected that in the feedback we received. ■



Malcolm MacLeod
MRTPI
Head of Planning
& Environment,
Highland Council

Photo credit - Highland Council



With city stakeholders mapping city challenges against the City Resilience Framework (Luxor, Egypt)

Article: Planning for a resilient and sustainable future

Professor **Samer Bagaeen** is Associate Director for Europe and the Middle East in the 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) London office. He previously lived in Glasgow and taught planning and urban design in Glasgow and Aberdeen.

Planning is making a comeback, globally! At the World Urban Forum in February, UN Habitat launched the report *Leading Change: Delivering the New Urban Agenda through Urban and Territorial Planning*. For UN Habitat and others who were at the WUF, the report epitomised the revival of planning as a key instrument of sustainable urbanisation. What began in 2005 as a series of ad-hoc flyers documenting UN-Habitat's various activities related to urban planning, has culminated in urban planning and design becoming fundamental to the agency's work, an important piece of SDG 11 (Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and central to the New Urban Agenda, agreed at Habitat III in 2016.

All over the world, cities are facing a growing set of challenges - from a recurring

frequency of one hundred-year storms and unseasonal flooding, to mass migration, aging infrastructure, and racial and economic inequities that test the social fabric of communities. Take for example the issue of housing provision and affordability. We rarely see housing as an infrastructure issue but discuss its distorting effect on the economy in the context of it being a net drain on resources. Applying a transversal lens across city departments - and therefore urban challenges - enables us to see these challenges as opportunities for transformation. And because cities have shown themselves to be incredible test beds for innovation, I am one of those that believes that the urban future and new urban solutions for wicked problems lie in cities and in an enlightened and forward-looking city



Samer Bagaeen
MRTPI FRICS
Associate Director
for Europe and the
Middle East, 100
Resilient Cities

leadership that fosters and promotes a cross-cutting approach to tackling wicked problems.

Take Glasgow for example, one of 100 cities forming part of the network of resilient cities pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation (www.100resilientcities.org). Glasgow has transformed itself from a centre of shipbuilding to a hub for community engagement and a focus on people. After all, people make Glasgow! Glasgow's resilience strategy, released in 2016, was informed by an intensive and innovative process of community engagement. Glasgow's resilience conversation managed to connect with more than 3,500 local residents across all age groups and communities to ensure that it drew on a diverse range of voices.

There is a lot of resilience work being done and much more to be done in Glasgow and

person cope or adapt? Why do some people seem to bounce back from tragic events or loss much more quickly than others? Why do some people seem to get "stuck" in a point in their life, without the ability to move forward? When faced with a tragedy, natural disaster, health concern, relationship, work, or school problem, resilience is how well a person can adapt to the events in their life. A person with good resilience has the ability to bounce back more quickly and with less stress than someone whose resilience is less developed. If this is about personal resilience, what does it mean for our cities?

As an organisation, 100RC has a dynamic view of resilience that emphasizes the interrelationships of the entire urban ecosystem. We therefore define urban resilience as the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and grow, no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience. This is different from a more traditional

"All over the world, cities are facing a growing set of challenges - from a recurring frequency of one hundred-year storms and unseasonal flooding, to mass migration, aging infrastructure, and racial and economic inequities that test the social fabric of communities."

view in each and every one of the cities in the 100 Resilient Cities Network. The organisation, 100RC, helps cities build resilience amid social, economic and physical challenges that are ever-increasing. This resilience allows them to not only adapt and survive but to grow stronger as they do so. From Accra to Amman, from Bangkok to Bristol, from Norfolk USA to Nairobi, communities are successfully paving the way for a more resilient future. We are also seeing the market respond, with a growing demand for products and services that cities need as they build resilience. These can and should transcend political terms. Short terms of office for politicians and the bureaucratic challenges of managing project pipelines are holding back much-needed infrastructure investment in cities. This remains of the dilemmas around resilience building that we need to address. Within this context and within debates around this in global forums, the focus has shifted from thinking of cities as sites of decline to cities as engines of growth. This was evident in the United States when the Trump administration pulled out of the Paris climate accord only to have the mayors of the big US cities saying they would continue to fulfill their obligations. This was only one recent demonstration of the power of cities.

Cities building resilience

So what is resilience and is it a new term? When faced with adversity in life, how does a

person cope or adapt? Why do some people seem to bounce back from tragic events or loss much more quickly than others? Why do some people seem to get "stuck" in a point in their life, without the ability to move forward? When faced with a tragedy, natural disaster, health concern, relationship, work, or school problem, resilience is how well a person can adapt to the events in their life. A person with good resilience has the ability to bounce back more quickly and with less stress than someone whose resilience is less developed. If this is about personal resilience, what does it mean for our cities?

view of resilience as being fundamentally concerned with disasters and risk reduction. But we're not just talking about the ability to bounce back from the sudden disasters – acute shocks such as fires, earthquakes, and floods – that are commonly associated with the word. We're also focused on the long-term, slow-burn disasters that weaken a city over time. These stresses – such as poverty, endemic violence, and an inadequate transportation system – are persistent and no less pernicious and exacerbate the sudden disasters when those do occur.

To help cities grapple with these challenges, shocks and stresses, we provide four types of support to the 100 cities in our global network. The first is funding to hire a Chief Resilience Officer (CRO), a senior official within the mayor's office whose job it is to coordinate resilience-building efforts across government departments, and also to pull in the private sector. Once a city has a CRO in place, the CRO's first major undertaking is to develop an action-oriented Resilience Strategy that includes specific, implementable initiatives that will make a city better today and tomorrow. The resources and technical support 100RC offers to guide the crafting of the strategy is the second of our four major offerings. This includes 100RC staff support and a strategy partner to help guide the city through this part of the engagement. To deliver these strategies, we work with

Arup, Aecom, Buro Happold in Europe and the Middle East and with many others in our cities around the world. The Resilience Strategy is the product of a 9 to 12-month process in which a city closely examines the threats it faces, its existing ability to address those threats and, critically, what needs to be done to bridge the gap. To help implement the strategies, we connect cities to a dedicated platform of partners in resilience planning, including international institutions such as the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and many others, private companies, NGOs and academic institutions. This is the third of our four core offerings. As cities develop their strategies, gain a deeper understanding of their shocks and stresses, and begin to form solutions, they do not do so in a vacuum. That's why our fourth offering is membership in our peer-to-peer network, which allows CROs and their teams to proactively share best practices with other cities across the globe. The peer-to-peer network, the platform of partners, the development of a Resilience Strategy and the hiring of a CRO are the four offerings that together form the beating heart of 100 Resilient Cities. ■



Chief Resilience Officer in Milan mapping out resilience challenges as part of the Milan 2030 City Plan (Milan, Italy)



With city leaders – Deputy Mayors and City Manager – in Rome discussing resilience challenges and priority actions (Rome, Italy)

Article:

The future for renewable energy

With a new RTPI Practice Advice Note on Climate Change in the pipeline, **Robbie Calvert**, Policy and Networks Adviser at the RTPI, looks at change on the cards for deployment of renewables.

At the core of a transition to a low carbon economy will be the large scale deployment of renewable power generation. In recent years this sector has experienced significant growth spurred on by dramatically reducing costs and a range of newly emerging technologies. Scotland has seen a particularly strong growth in this sector due to its large natural resources and strong policy initiatives from the devolved government. However, the necessary future electrification of heating and transport will require renewable power generation much greater in magnitude and scale than what has been previously witnessed. With the correct approach this major challenge can be seized as an economic opportunity - creating new jobs, supply chains and delivering affordable energy to businesses. Planning will play a crucial role in this transition, providing a systematic approach to aligning renewable projects and their infrastructure with future industrial, transport, and housing strategies. Collaborative policy development across government departments is vital to help integrate these different sectors, tying in the Scottish Energy Strategy with transport, economic growth ambitions and regeneration projects. The introduction of a renewed and strengthened National Planning Framework in 2020 will provide a great opportunity for the government to demonstrate this, by spatially

recognising its future vision for energy supply and demand.

Our new energy system will be constituted of a more decentralised grid network that can respond to the intermittent, fluctuating production from renewable power with additional power plants and storage facilities. This modernised network will resultantly be more complex to operate but could also provide an opportunity for flexibility and innovation locally.

However, currently internal capacity for energy planning in resource constrained Local Authorities (LAs) is a significant challenge. To keep pace with this fast evolving sector it is critical that information, expertise and best practice are shared across LAs through the formation of energy focused public sector networks. In many cases commercial partnerships will be also be necessary, the outcomes of which need captured and replicated internally to help address skills and knowledge gaps. As well as information and knowledge exchange an increasingly decentralised network will need increased strategic spatial cooperation at the regional level. Regional Planning Partnerships if properly resourced and supported could provide a great opportunity to support energy plans at large scale and build capacity across boundaries.

The transition to a low carbon economy

will provide both a social and a technological challenge for planners. Any future transition to a low carbon economy needs genuine consent from communities through meaningful early consultations which emphasise local determination and collective problem solving. Shared ownership schemes tend to be more locally acceptable and can help offset the impacts of renewable projects on the landscape. This two-way dialogue between developers and communities should place emphasis on the conflicting demands that planning authorities have to reconcile which the aim of developing solutions that are viable, rational and legitimate. This can be helped by ensuring detailed local policy containing guidance for community engagement is available. ■



Robbie Calvert
Policy and Networks
Adviser RTPI

Photo credit © Philip Mroz



Photo credit © James Murray



Michelle McGuckin
MRTPI
Strategic Planner
Glasgow City Region

Article:

Future-Proofing Glasgow City Region: The Clydeplan Flood Risk Management Tool

Michelle McGuckin, Strategic Planner, Clydeplan currently on secondment to Glasgow City Region with technical support from **Grant McFarlane**, Planning Analyst at Clydeplan, outlines the SAQP winning tool.

With increased extreme weather events resulting in localised flooding, Clydeplan was keen to find a practical application of Flood Risk Management for spatial planners across Glasgow City Region.

Improvements in data recording and data sharing, alongside better weather forecasting, has vastly enhanced our wider understanding of when and where flooding is likely to occur and, who is likely to be affected.

Planners are increasingly aware of the complexities of incorporating climate change mitigation and adaptation measures within developments however, the practical application of this can be elusive at the development plan stage.

The Clydeplan Flood Risk Management (FRM) Tool is the first step towards creating a series of interconnected data analyses that will form an increasingly refined knowledge base and influence the delivery of sustainable development.

The FRM Tool focusses on two issues:

- the **flood risks** associated with development plan proposals; and,
- the **impact** of these flood risks on the development proposals.

The differences between risks and impacts of flooding are not always easy to identify. Sometimes these terms are used interchangeably resulting in a cluttered backdrop for development planning.

Separating flood risk from the impact of flooding provides planners with clearer understanding of the issues needing

addressed and casts light on potential options associated with various types of development.

Clydeplan's FRM Tool is provided in Microsoft Excel and Geographical Information System (GIS) ready formats and was issued to the eight Clydeplan member Local Authorities early in their Local Development Plan preparation process. It identifies the flooding potential of all features affected by flooding, including sites being considered for development.

The data capture and analysis of the FRM Tool raises awareness and offers a clearer understanding of potential long-term, large scale projects such as City Deal and infrastructure projects, alongside other development sites. Using simple filtering in excel or the selection tools in GIS, assets and features of individual local authority's data can be isolated.

To assist local authorities to prioritise flood risk analysis when undertaking development plan preparation, the FRM Tool uses SEPA's flood data including the three categories of flood risk – pluvial, fluvial and coastal.

The Tool calculates and illustrates the percentage of development sites affected by each of the three categories of flood risk. It then links to information on complimentary recommended actions related to the type of flood risk.

The FRM Tool supports cross departmental working within councils by providing access to the same data when discussing sites, development or geographical locations. It therefore enables more informed discussions.

Clydeplan's approach to FRM planning adds further value because it is cross-boundary, covering the whole City Region. The supplied data can be identified by place/feature name, development type, local authority, flood type, Flood Catchment Unit, Potential Vulnerable Area, Risk etc.

In relation to flood mitigation or adaptation measures, the FRM Tool offers valuable insights and delivers benefits that can inform project viability for individual development projects as well as for development plan land allocations and project planning. Thus, the reach of the Tool is both strategic and local.

Clearly, joining and transferring attributes from SEPA datasets to planning datasets and vice versa takes time, but with Clydeplan setting up the FRM Tool for one planning dataset and copying the process for all datasets, our member local authorities save time, avoiding the duplication of data collation, analysis and procedure. This consistent singular approach across the City Region significantly minimises the scope for error.

A new release of the data will be issued during 2018 with annual updates thereafter.

The FRM Tool has been set to allow for the addition of further related datasets. For example, Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership is working on the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities to react to flood events. This would add an important 'people' element to the Tool furthering a regional contribution to inclusive growth. ■



Article:

Planning For Climate Change — Thoughts of a Practitioner...

Colin Lavety, Planning Director at Barton Willmore, gives his views on the practical issues in promoting climate change.

As a consultancy of Town Planners, Urban Designers, Masterplanners, Architects and Landscape Architects, at Barton Willmore we have to deal with the challenges posed by long term climate change constantly, and this is evident throughout our work. For me, as a Planning Consultant who is also heavily involved in the coordination and management of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for a range of projects, I can see that climate change is now being thrust towards the centre of everything we do in practice. The need to account for predicted changes in climate is now widespread, as a fundamental aspect of the sustainability agenda.

Although many practitioners would tell you that the recently updated EIA Regulations are effectively a series of 'minor tweaks' to the way we need to do things, this downplays the increased focus on climate change. The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 now include a requirement for EIA Reports to factor in climate change mitigation and adaptation into the scope of the assessment, with specific references made to greenhouse gases and vulnerability. Whilst most would argue that any EIA Report worth its salt would address these issues, the fact that an assessment of climate change is now



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a mandatory requirement for EIA Reports confirms its importance, and place, in the 'hierarchy'. The key thing for EIA practitioners to understand is that there are inherent risks in undertaking impact assessments without

“the fact that an assessment of climate change is now a mandatory requirement for EIA Reports confirms its importance, and place in the ‘hierarchy’.”

considering climate change. There is also an element of climate change consideration built into the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines in terms of how a project baseline might change over time. This should be an assumption within relevant EIA Report chapters and tends to affect a range of disciplines including ecology, flooding and air quality.

Our masterplanners know from practice that climate change now stands as a central focus for masterplanning at all levels. That focus takes the form of ever more rigorous standards of insulation, air tightness and on-site renewables. We see that climate change risks, and adaptation needs, should be identified and incorporated into a project as early as possible and this is something which has now become fundamental to the deliverability of our masterplans. For instance, a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is now likely to be based on an agreed 'base design' but is expected to factor in an additional 'freeboard' allowance to incorporate predicted climate change (often c.20%). This can have a significant impact on defining functional flood plain and effectively, determining which areas of land are capable of being developed. Surface water drainage and flood prevention are central to all our thinking on large scale masterplans and thankfully Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are now increasingly used as features in masterplans. Such approaches are now embedded into good practice guidance. Naturally, the effects of climate change - particularly increased rainfall - can also influence a wider range of other factors which are reflected in every masterplan including hydrology, drainage, ecology and ground conditions.

What is also clear is that it is the large-scale masterplan projects where we can have the greatest impact upon climate change. However, it is also unfortunate that these are often the most difficult projects to fund and / or steer through the Planning System. Maybe it's time for another round of Scottish Sustainable Communities

Initiative (SSCI) projects? This time, however, the projects could be development sites that currently sit outwith the Development Plan - recognising that their contribution to reducing climate change (as well as the ability to deliver appropriate infrastructure and place making) is what determines which projects get selected.

As a Planning Consultant, it is with regard to the format and content of planning application submissions where I see that in practice, climate change and sustainability considerations are more influential than ever. They shape the information we need to submit to provide a competent application, and ultimately secure a consent. Since I started working in planning (now a scary 17 years ago!) the range of information required to accompany applications, which is embedded in policy, is significant. Sustainability Statements, Energy Statements, BREEAM Assessments and Carbon Footprint Calculators are just some of the reports that I have had to prepare, or procure, on behalf of clients. In addition to this are the requirements set through planning policy or Building Control Regulations in terms of building and layout design which are also directly related to climate change. This includes the need for integrated renewable energy technologies, electric vehicle charging points and SuDS, to name a few.

I think the key thing that we practitioners sometimes need reminded of (myself included!) is that we aren't doing all of the above simply to finalise a development layout or secure a planning permission. It's more important than that. It's about ensuring that the development we deliver now is of high quality and remains 'future proofed' from the effects of climate change so that it can be used and enjoyed by future generations. That said, we also need to bear in mind that the main point at which the Planning System can influence positive change is when Development Management decisions are made. By their very nature, those decisions are limited to emerging (i.e. future) development projects and therefore only influence a very small proportion of the total emissions from, and attributable to, built development. With this in mind, if we are going to really tackle climate change,

shouldn't we be looking to retro-fit older properties with energy-saving technology to improve insulation and meet national carbon targets?

The fact that climate change is such an overarching consideration in practice shouldn't surprise any of us. The National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) confirms that the reduction of carbon emissions and adapting to climate change is one of only four national 'key planning outcomes', and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) confirms the Scottish Government's commitment to delivering the framework within The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, and the need to facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate adaptation to climate change. More recently, the Scottish Government's 'Climate Change Plan', published in February this year, confirms that "the Planning System must provide the framework in which decisions about "place" can support low carbon lifestyles and the transformative change needed to deliver emissions reduction targets". The document really hits the nail on the head in terms of how practitioners are forced to deal with climate change matters on a day to day basis. It does this by emphasising that the Planning System "provides a framework for thinking about how we use space to gain a variety of benefits: for example, green networks can be important for wildlife, recreation and travel; and woodland creation can help absorb carbon dioxide and slow down the rate of water movement into burns and rivers, helping to reduce flooding in built-up areas".

So, what does all of this really mean? Tackling climate change is a key Government priority for the Planning System and is now an absolutely fundamental aspect of how

“It's about ensuring that the development we deliver now is of high quality and remains 'future proofed' from the effects of climate change so that it can be used / enjoyed by future generations.”

our system operates. It is crucial to how sites are selected, how development is designed, how it is delivered and how it operates. It is also multi-layered, with impacts spanning

across strategic masterplanning, the design of individual buildings, environmental assessment and the basic town planning judgement of 'what should be built, where'.

From a planners point of view, climate change underpins pretty much everything we do - although we may not always realise this. ■



Article:

The role of the historic environment in tackling climate change

Steven Robb, Deputy Head of Casework in the Heritage Directorate at Historic Environment Scotland makes the case for working with historic buildings to bring emissions down.

Historic Environment Scotland, as the lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment, has an important role in addressing the Scottish Government's ambitious climate change targets. We want to lead the way globally in showing how the historic built environment can play its part in switching to a low carbon economy and adapting to a changing climate.

As well as keeping our own house in order, mitigating emissions from our operations, and adapting our buildings, we provide valuable advice on measures to improve energy efficiency and on other issues e.g. handling increased rainfall.

Scotland's historic built environment is a resource we can justly be proud of, but in order to safeguard its future use and popularity it must remain attractive to owners and investors. Consequently, buildings will require to be both reused and upgraded to reduce heat loss, especially with rising fuel prices.

A reused building will almost always be more sustainable, in the true sense of that much-mishandled word, than building anew – no matter how green the replacement. However, a major barrier to normalising reuse remains the 20% VAT bill for renovation, repair and bill for renovation and repair (against a zero-rating for new build).

Traditional buildings have many advantages in their robust construction, natural daylight, ceiling heights and air movement, and solid stone walls actually perform quite well compared to buildings built before building standards were bumped up in the 1980s. However, they perform poorly when set against today's insulation standards.

Happily, there are several ways of sensitively retrofitting improvements. The key to remember is that traditional buildings function differently from new buildings, being designed to accommodate air movement and take in and expel moisture in a cycle. Previous retrofitting work has often adapted new methods to old buildings, but generally the battle is being won with many contractors now using lime mortar rather than cement mortar on stone walls and breathable vapour barriers and natural insulation products are now freely available. In addition, there continues to be technological advances in double-glazing and new long-lasting treated timber and paints.

We recommend looking first at the whole building envelope, working out where limited (less costly) interventions might make the most difference. Quick fixes include increasing insulation levels, draught-stripping and even fitting chimney balloons. Maintenance is also important as a damp wall will lose heat quicker, as well as storing up other problems.

Whilst additional insulation can rarely be applied externally on walls, there are several ways of upgrading internally, including blown insulation behind lath and plaster. Where no internal finishes survive more invasive approaches can be undertaken.

Although many upgrading measures don't require permission, HES's Managing Change in the Historic Environment guidance is aimed squarely at planners' decision-making, and we have just rewritten our guidance on windows. Although single-glazed windows are often the poorest thermal performer within a building envelope there are several ways to upgrade them including traditional shutters, lined

curtains, secondary glazing and draught-proofing - sash windows were not made to be draughty! We have also addressed ways that double glazing can be installed, either retrofitted within existing windows or within new frames. ■

You can read more about our Climate Change Action Plan and how we are adapting to climate change here; <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/about-us/what-we-do/climate-change/>. To help train designers, builders and tradesmen Historic Environment Scotland provide specific courses in conservation and traditional buildings. See more at; <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/learn/skills-and-training/>. We have also produced a technical guide to upgrading traditional buildings; <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=179c1909-3679-4486-9583-a59100fa98c1> And here is our upgraded Managing Change guidance on windows; <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=3425bb51-8a55-4f99-b7aa-a60b009fbca2>



Steven Robb MRTPI
Deputy Head of Casework, Heritage Directorate, Historic Environment Scotland

Update: Planning Bill



The Planning (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 5 December 2017. It is now subject to debate and amendment before becoming an Act later this year. The timetable and main stages of the process are as follows:



There is a vote by Parliament to pass the Bill from each stage to the next.

The Scottish Parliament Local Government and Communities Committee is leading the scrutiny of the Bill. Written evidence was invited up until 2 February 2018, and the Committee is hearing oral evidence from six panels over three sessions. The Committee heard oral evidence from the Minister for Local Government and Housing on Wednesday 21 March. The Committee is timetabled to publish its report on the Bill around the end of May, and which point the legislation should pass to stage 2, where possible amendments will be proposed and debated in Committee. We expect that stage 3, followed by a final Parliamentary vote and Royal Assent will take place in Autumn 2018.

A Planning Act will be followed by secondary legislation that fills in many of the details on how new and reformed processes will work, and then new policy and guidance from Scottish Government. The renewal of the NPF will be an important part of this, and the Scottish Government has timetabled that NPF4 will be adopted in 2020.

What has RTPi Scotland been doing?

Members - We have engaged widely with members throughout the Planning Review process and this has informed our responses. We want to continue this dialogue. Keep an eye on Twitter at [@RTPiScotland](https://twitter.com/RTPiScotland) for updates.

Chapter events - Alongside chapters we have given briefings on the Planning (Scotland) Bill in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dumfries and Perth.

Committee evidence

We have submitted written evidence to, and appeared before, the Local Government and Communities Committee and the Finance and Constitution Committee, which is responsible for scrutinising the Bill's Financial Memorandum.

Meetings

We have met with the party spokespersons from the Scottish Conservatives, Scottish Labour and Scottish Greens; with the Convenor of the Local Government and Communities Committee; and with the Scottish Government Bill Team, to highlight RTPi Scotland's priorities for the Bill. These include the need to retain statutory strategic planning arrangements; the need for clarity on resourcing; the provisions for Simplified Development Zones; approaches to resourcing infrastructure; alignment of Local Place Plans with Local Development Plans and Community Planning; and the status and role of the proposed planning performance coordinator.

Planning Ahead

We have sent Planning Ahead postcards to all MSPs and Cabinet Secretaries highlighting the positive role that planning can play in delivering a broad range of public policy ambitions in Scotland. www.rtpi.org.uk/planningahead.

Scottish Alliance for People and Places

We have continued to work with the Alliance, which now has 20 diverse members, all looking to use the Bill as an opportunity to create a more visionary, proactive and positive planning system.

Work with Scottish Government on skills

We continue to work with Scottish Government to develop the skills programme that will support the implementation of reforms to be introduced by the Bill and wider review.

Scottish Executive Committee

The Committee continues to scrutinise and guide the RTPi Scotland response to the review of the planning system.

Where to find more information

RTPi Scotland

All of the written information which we have submitted as part of the planning review can be viewed on our website at <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/the-rtpi-near-you/rtpi-scotland/policy-and-research/planning-review/>

Scottish Parliament

More detailed information about the legislative process can be found here: <http://www.parliament.scot/visitandlearn/Education/18641.aspx>. More information about the Local Government and Communities Committee's scrutiny of the Planning Bill is here: <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/local-govt-committee.aspx>

Scottish Government

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/planning-architecture/reforming-planning-system/>

Follow us on Twitter, [@RTPiScotland](https://twitter.com/RTPiScotland), for regular updates. ■

If you would like to be more involved in our work on the planning review, please contact Policy and Practice Officer Kate Houghton at kate.houghton@rtpi.org.uk, or 0131 229 9628.

Update: Scottish Government News



Planning Bill update

Following its introduction into Parliament early in December 2017, Scottish Parliament Committees have been taking written and oral evidence on the Planning (Scotland) Bill. Details can be found on the Parliament's website at <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/106768.aspx>; written evidence is published on each of the Committees' pages.

SAQP2018

In light of the Year of Young People 2018, this year's SAQP includes a fifth category which focuses on the positive role of children and young people in making the places they live, go to school and play. You can also nominate people and projects in the Personal Achievement in Planning and People's Choice Awards respectively. Details can be found on the Scottish Government website. Follow [#SAQP2018](#) for further details.

Designing Places Student Competition

On 17 March, the Designing Places Competition ran for its ninth year, at The Lighthouse, in Glasgow. It attracted built environment students, from across Scotland, who attended the masterplanning and design class for a site in North Ayrshire. Congratulations to the winning team who called themselves 'The Witty Girls' with their masterplan entitled 'Park Avenue Views'. The team will be invited to attend the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning ceremony in November to be presented with their certificates.

Making Places Initiative

Local Government Minister Kevin Stewart MSP announced that 19 projects from across Scotland will share a total of £311,890 as part of the Making Places initiative. Launched in September 2017, the initiative has three distinct elements; the recent announcement relates to grant funding for participative design events. Design events

bring local people together with design professionals to identify how their places and communities can be improved. These types of events are an important way of empowering people and enabling participation. More information on the projects can be found at: <https://news.gov.scot/news/designing-communities-1>

Research has also been published, undertaken by a team from the University of Dundee, Eclipse Research and Kevin Murray Associates, and supported by the Scottish Government, into 'the facilitation of participatory placemaking'. *Shaping better places together* can be downloaded from <https://www.dundee.ac.uk/architecture-urban-planning/projects/details/shaping-better-places-together.php>

Events

Compulsory Purchase National Assembly

– details of the agenda, presentations and Minister's speech from the Assembly in December 2017 can be found at: <https://blogs.gov.scot/planning-architecture/2018/01/12/compulsory-purchase-order-national-assembly/>

National SEA Forum – in March the National SEA Forum, which provides an opportunity for practitioners to come together and share experiences, knowledge and good practices, focussed on 'SEA and the planning review'. The agenda for the Forum and any presentations given on the day are available on the Scottish Government website.

Build to Rent Seminar – Wednesday 18th April – The Principal, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4HQ

A free-to-attend day seminar to raise awareness of the key opportunities and challenges of the BTR sector. Speakers included from both the public and private sectors.

To secure a place or for further information, please email BTRseminar@gov.scot with your contact details, company and any dietary requirements.

Energy and Climate Change Strategies

Climate Change Plan third report: proposals and policies 2018-2032: <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/scottish-governments-climate-change-plan-third-report-proposals-policies-2018/>

The future of energy in Scotland: Scottish energy strategy: <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/scottish-energy-strategy-future-energy-scotland-9781788515276/>

The Climate Change Plan sets out the Scottish Government approach to tackling greenhouse gas emissions, across seven sectors to 2032. It is supported by the Energy Strategy which sets the long term vision for the energy system in Scotland, addressing heat, power and transport.

These policies will be important in framing the upcoming review of national planning policy.

Scotland's towns and cities are more green than grey

Funded by the Scottish Government, the third report on the State of Scotland's Greenspace was launched by Kevin Stewart MSP Minister for Local Government and Housing in February 2018. The report reveals the extent and type of urban greenspace in all Scottish local authorities and provides summary information from the 2017 Greenspace Use and Attitude Survey and the Improvement Service Local Government Benchmarking Framework. The full report is available at: <http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/state-of-scotlands-greenspace.aspx> ■

Update: Planning and Architecture Division Research and Study Programme



Photo credit © Scottish Government

The Planning and Architecture Division is taking forward a number of initiatives in order to inform work to develop secondary legislation and support planning practice beyond the current legislative programme.

Several **research projects** are being undertaken which include:

- **Housing Land Audit**
The research aims to identify best practice in HLAs and linking these with LDP Action Programmes in Scotland, and to identify positive recommendations on how quality and standardisation can be developed to meet the aspirations for improving the planning system and delivering more housing.
- **Economy and Place**
This work is examining interactions and interdependencies between planning, place and economy to establish how planning supports economic development and how a thriving inclusive economy can support the creation of great places.
- **Deliverability of site allocations**
Research is underway into how planning authorities assess the deliverability of a site that is proposed for allocation in the local development plan. This will build on research raising concerns about the amount of work required to secure planning permission in principle for allocated sites, investigating what information is currently submitted and making recommendations for future improvements.

Along with other research topics such as ‘performance outcomes’ and ‘barriers to decision making in housing’, the final reports will be published on the Planning and Architecture webpage which features previous research subjects such as ‘simplified

planning zones’, ‘digital and 3D visualisations in planning’ and ‘options for infrastructure levy’.

A **lead practice series** is being progressed collaboratively with planning authority partners who are piloting work that tests planning review proposals in practice. Three initial projects are currently being developed:

- **Linking spatial and community planning**
West Dunbartonshire Council’s ‘Your Place Your Plan’ work is joining up consultation processes and making connections between the LOIP and LDP to deliver outcomes through aligning spatial and social action and through integrating budget planning.
- **Gatecheck**
The gatecheck process is being trialled by Moray Council as a means of providing reassurance on the evidence base and approach early enough in the plan-making process sufficient to take remedial action if required.
- **Delivery programme**
Through moving from an ‘action plan’ to a ‘delivery programme’ Fife Council planning authority is helping to link corporate governance, join-up the delivery of the plan, and monitor outcomes.

The pilot work is being developed in tandem with existing legislative requirements, the purpose being to identify and learn from current practice, share and disseminate knowledge, and showcase projects that demonstrate ‘culture change’ aspects beyond the Bill.

The pilot case studies will be a focus of the Development Planning Forum in April 2018 which will feature presentations from the three projects. Broader learning will be

promoted more widely through web-based summary reports to be made available on the PAD website.

A number of **study reports** have been reflecting more broadly on UK and European planning experience.

- **Manchester / Sheffield Study Visit**
This work considered how, despite the abolition of regional planning in England, collaborative strategic partnership planning is being driven in the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Sheffield City Region areas by a desire to coordinate, provide consistency and share benefit through developing long term plans, recognising that the quality of place offer and place outcomes matter.
- **King’s Cross Study Visit**
The 67 acres regeneration at King’s Cross is an example of where proactive planning, comprehensive masterplanning, partnership working and a commitment to sustainable design has secured an award winning high quality public realm and successful mixed use development that is delivering over 1000 new homes in London’s city centre.
- **German Planning System**
A mutual feedback principle ensures consistency across Germany’s planning system which interlinks across federal, state / region and local levels. Greater long term certainty and implementation of the plan is achieved through measures that include high levels of participation, identification of binding land uses, a development freeze on land where a binding land use plan exists, and regular civic monitoring and reallocation of land zonings as required. ■

Update:

RTPI Scotland Update



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RTPI Scotland has attended the following involving Scottish Ministers:

- A roundtable discussion session attended by Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government and Housing, exploring the potential of changing permitted development rights
- A roundtable discussion attended by Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government and Housing, on issues arising from the Planning Bill
- The Ministerial High Level Group on Planning Performance, chaired by Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government and Housing
- The Joint Housing Planning and Delivery Group, attended by Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Social Security and Equalities.

Other key meetings which have taken place recently include:

- Discussions with Scottish Government officials on their Obesity Strategy
- The Department of Planning and Environmental Appeals Stakeholder Group
- Heads of Planning Scotland Executive Committee
- Royal Society of Arts/ US consulate discussion on resilient cities
- Workshop on place based working in Scotland
- Discussion on Scottish Government research on planning outcomes

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

RTPI Scotland is working closely with Scottish Government and the Improvement Service in exploring the development of a new online planning portal to act as a 'one stop shop' for information on good planning practice in Scotland. Scottish Government have agreed to fund the first phase of this and it is hoped

to launch it after the summer. Scottish Government, the Improvement Service and RTPI Scotland are also working to organise a skills event in September 2018 where the Minister will launch the portal.

SCOTTISH YOUNG PLANNERS' CONFERENCE

The Annual Scottish Young Planners' Conference took place in Glasgow on 14 March looking at "The Changing Face of Planning: Planning Ahead". Over 130 people attended the event which included presentations from Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government and Housing; Liz Pringle, Head of Digital Planning, Scottish Government; Kenny Steele, Managing Director, Pinnacle Visualisation Ltd; Stefan Webb, Head of Projects, Future Cities Catapult; Calum Murray, Director, CCG (Scotland) Ltd; Kelly Forbes, Policy Manager, ICE Scotland; and Irene Beautyman, Programme Director for the Improvement Service. Feedback from delegates has been very positive.

COMMUNICATIONS

The @RTPIScotland Twitter account now has 3417 followers and the @ConvenorRTPIIS account has 1160 followers.

The following have been posted on the RTPI Scotland blog (see <https://rtpisotland.blog>)

- Scottish Young Planners' Conference – Luke Vogan outlines his thoughts on the conference
- Planning Ahead to Achieve Inclusive Growth - Kate Houghton outlines the aims of the Planning Ahead campaign
- Planning Ahead – why we need to invest in the planning service – Craig McLaren, discusses the need to better resource the planning service
- The Challenges and Opportunities for Scottish Planners in 2018 – Craig McLaren outlines the issues for Scottish planning in 2018

MEDIA

On 5 March RTPI Scotland Director Craig McLaren appeared on Scottish Television's "Scotland Tonight" programme. He discussed the how planners were key to building the legacy of Scotland's new towns and the impact that they had on the country.

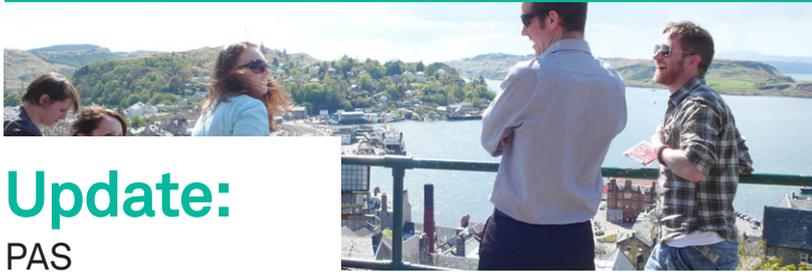


RTPI AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Six Scottish finalists are in the frame to win a RTPI Award for Planning Excellence including:

1. Former Cockenzie Power Station Masterplan by Peter Brett Associates for Excellence in Plan Making Practice
2. Stromness Regeneration by Orkney Islands Council for Excellence in Planning for a Successful Economy
3. Wick Community campus by Ryder Architects for Excellence in Planning for a Successful Economy
4. Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary for Excellence in Planning for Health and Wellbeing
5. Natural Power Consultants Limited for In-house Planning Team of the Year
6. Heather Claridge of Glasgow City Council for Young Planner of the Year

The winners will be announced during a ceremony in London on 24 May. ■



Update: PAS

Want To Lead A Longer, Happier Life? Look No Further!

Several studies have demonstrated a link between volunteering to help others and health benefits to the individual volunteering.

It turns out that volunteering in itself does not confer any magical health benefits. But when researchers looked at the type of volunteering, two distinct pictures emerged. Volunteering with an expectation of reward showed no correlation with health benefits, whereas volunteering to help others is correlated with living longer.

Volunteering can improve your health outcomes provided that it is altruistic in motivation. This is where PAS comes in. We help individuals and communities have a say in decisions that affect their lives.

Our Advice Service is one of our most important services but only a small portion of our 400 volunteers give their time for the Advice Service. Together with you, we want to change this.

The Advice Service operates full-time, providing people across Scotland with impartial, confidential and free-at-point-of-use advice about planning issues from windows and log cabins, to wind turbines and new housing.

Volunteering for the Advice Service is an opportunity to develop your skills on different aspects of planning as well as get an understanding about what's happening across Scotland through on-going skills training.

The Advice Service also grows and responds to feedback from our volunteers. In the last

few months we've been implementing a new system to make casework even easier for volunteers. So far we've had 100% positive feedback.

Volunteering for the Advice Service is a win-win when it comes to balancing personal reward with helping others in a genuine way. If you want to help deliver a dynamic advice service that is constantly growing and providing much needed support and professional expertise to people across Scotland, then please get in touch. Who knows, it may bring health and happiness to your life!

For more information please contact Deanne Cullen, Advice Service Manager, deanne@pas.org.uk

Update: HOPS



Jim Birrell, Planning Review Programme Manager.

Planning Bill

The Planning Bill and what will follow continues to be the main focus of our attention. HOPS has responded to the Financial Memorandum and the Call for Evidence and also prepared a consolidated Topic Paper on the main issues. HOPS provided evidence to the Scottish Parliament Local Government and Communities Committee on Wednesday, 14th. March, 2018. <https://hopscotland.files.wordpress.com/2018/01/written-evidence-to-the-faccq-260118-final1.pdf> ; <https://hopscotland.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/call-for-evidence-hops-response-020218.pdf>

HOPS Business Plan

The review has been commenced by Iain McDiarmid, Vice Chair, and the final draft will be reported to the Executive Committee in May.

CPO Procedures

Jim Grant, Moray Council, is representing

HOPS in the initial discussion groups. The first meeting is with landowners.

HOPS Surveys

- **Major Fees Survey**
HOPS has completed its survey of all Scottish LPAs on the impact of the 2017 rise in major application fees and the results will be published in March.
- **Shared Services and Skills Survey**
A HOPS joint survey with RTPI, Improvement Service and Scottish Government in to Shared Services and Skills has commenced and the results will be published in March.
- **Planning Costs**
HOPS is to undertake an updating survey on planning costs led by the Performance and Practice SC to compare and contrast with earlier HOPS surveys.

HOPS Partnership Work

- **A new Housing Model?**
HOPS is developing a national approach

to housing matters initially via Dorothy McDonald and the Development Plans SC. Early discussions have been held with SG officers and the next stage is to consider a possible joint position or a set of agreed principles with Homes for Scotland in March.

- **How to consult better?**
Planning Aid Scotland and HOPS are looking at ways of developing SP=EED planning advice across Scotland in a consistent and unified manner. <http://pas.org.uk/speed/>
- **National Validation Standards**
The first review of the standards, introduced in 2017, is underway by the Development Management SC and a meeting with key stakeholders is being scheduled for April between HOPS, RTPI, RICS, Scottish Property Federation, Homes for Scotland and the Scottish Planning Consultants Forum.

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.

Detail on our engagement with the Planning (Scotland) Bill and wider planning review is contained in the update on page 17. RTPI Scotland has though continued to promote the role of planning, land use and place-making in achieving a wide range of public policy objectives. Highlights from recent months are outlined below.

AIR QUALITY

Following submission of written evidence the Director of RTPI Scotland was invited to give oral evidence to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee's Air Quality in Scotland Inquiry. The Committee's Report has now been published, and identifies a crucial role for local and national planning policy and practice in successful delivery of the Cleaner Air for Scotland strategy (CAFS). The Report states "Air quality must be a key component in the reviews of the national planning framework and national planning policy." The full report can be read at <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/105527.aspx>

SCOTTISH OBESITY STRATEGY

As well as responding to the consultation 'A Healthier Future – Action and Ambitions on Diet, Activity and Healthy Weight' RTPI Scotland has met with the Scottish Government team charged with developing the Obesity Strategy to discuss the role of planning in creating places that enable healthy decision-making. This includes the potential for using the Use Classes Order to restrict new hot food takeaways opening, as has been trialled in several English areas, but also extends to promoting active travel and access to green space for both exercise and community food production.

CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

The Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan (Third Report on Proposals and Policies) 2018 – 2032 has been published as required by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. See pages 4 – 5 for an update on the contents of the Plan.

RTPI RESEARCH PROGRAMME 2019-21

The RTPI is currently consulting on the new RTPI Research Programme 2019-21. Since January, RTPI staff members and board members have been meeting with National Committees and Regional Boards to discuss the future research priorities of the RTPI. Beyond the key research priorities identified in the 2017 membership survey, we are exploring the possibility of undertaking a series of focus groups from April 2018 to August 2018 in collaboration with the Nations and the English Regions. In addition, external consultations with RTPI's research partners, academic institutions and policy makers have also run in parallel since January 2018. Watch this space for more information.

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:

- Scottish Government Consultation on A Healthier Future – Action and Ambitions on Diet, Activity and Healthy Weight
- Scottish Government consultation on Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies and the Regulation of District and Communal Heating

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The housing land market in Scotland: a discussion paper

Published January 2018
Scottish Land Commission

Online materials library

Launched January 2018
Architecture and Design Scotland

Climate Change Risk Assessment

Published January 2018
Historic Environment Scotland

RTPI Learn module on professional ethics

Published February 2018
RTPI

Review of Strategic Investment Plans for Affordable Housing

Published February 2018
Shelter Scotland | Scottish Federation of Housing Associations | Equality and Human Rights Commission

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Fraser 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 Policy, Practice and Research Committee.

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The opinions stated are the contributors' own unless otherwise stated. The RTPI is not responsible for statements made or views expressed in this journal.

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SPCF

Scottish Planning Consultants Forum

The Scottish Planning Consultants Forum represents the private sector planning profession for both independent consultants and those employed by small and large consultancies. We have successfully engaged with both the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament on the Planning Review and the Planning (Scotland) Bill.

If you wish to find out more about the SPCF or be involved, please contact either John MacCallum or Stuart Salter.

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