



RTPI

Royal Town Planning Institute

Annual Review 2017



RTPI East Midlands

Royal Town Planning Institute

Chair's Foreword.

A look back at 2017

The year has been a mixture of success and challenge for the Regional Forum.

We had a very successful Awards evening at Nottingham Contemporary in March to start the year with over a hundred planners attending to hear the key note speech from Hugh Ellis, TCPA. We received twenty four entries into the awards which was double that of the previous year. Our CPD and events programme attracted just over six hundred planners, both members and non-members with topics including Rural Estate Planning, Planning and Finance, Planning Law update and Fixing the Broken Housing Market.

The challenge continues to be delivering Planning Aid services and engagement with those individuals and communities in deprived areas seeking planning advice.

Young Planners

Our Young Planners Group continues to grow, providing both CPD and social events for the

membership, and encourages non-members to join. The highlight being a pre-Christmas "Beer by Tram" evening in Nottingham.

In addition, a CPD event on "Planning in the National Park" and two L-APC workshops were provided for young planners.

We are delighted to be hosting the 2018 Young Planners Conference in Nottingham on 2 and 3 November and planning work is well underway.

We have been able to offer a number of events free because of very generous sponsorship and we are most grateful to these organisations for their support.

Roundtables

We were pleased to host two consultation roundtables, one on Local Authority provision of housing, which has fed into a report by Janice Morphet, UCL and on the Government's consultation "Planning for the right homes in the right places".

"We continue to provide good quality, low cost or free events for members and I would encourage you to join us at one in the future as they are also a good networking opportunity."

Michael Braithwaite,
Chair 2017

Regional Management Board

- Michael Braithwaite, Chair
- Andrew Pritchard, Past Chair 2015
- Lynette Swinburne, Vice Chair
- Steve Birkinshaw, Treasurer
- John Scott, Secretary

Regional Activities Committee

- Steve Pointer
- Peter Wilkinson
- Fiona Forgham
- Ian Lings
- Stephen Coult
- Shilpa Rasaiah
- Tanya Rountree
- Maureen Darrie
- Christopher Jesson

Championing the Planning profession.

Regional Awards for Planning Excellence

The awards were presented on 2 March at Nottingham Contemporary at an evening drinks and networking event. Over a hundred planners saw summaries of the award entries highlighting the judges winning planning criteria. The winner of the development category was Aspbury Planning for their long term commitment to development at Witham St Hugh's. East Midlands Councils won the plan category for the Emerging HS2 Growth Strategy, Nottingham City Council took the local authority team category award, Marrons Planning won the consultants award, Jenny Keen, the Young Planner award and the Chair's Award was given to Hugh Ellis for his contribution to planning nationally.

The President's visit

December saw President Stephen Wilkinson visit the Region, with his first day spent in Leicester hosted by Leicester City Council. He visited exemplar projects where new and redeveloped sites are being integrated into

heritage settings. He visited Friars Mill, Ellis Meadows, DOCK, Abbey Pumping Station and the award winning Richard III visitor centre.

He also met with City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby to discuss his long term vision for the city.

The second part of the President's visit was an open debate "Fixing the Broken Housing Market". Over 60 planners and housing officers heard presentations by the President, representatives from the Chartered Institute of Housing, Nottingham City Homes and an independent planning consultant. The discussion focused on the need to not only ensure numbers of houses are provided for but they are of good design quality and affordable. Partnership working was seen as very important in ensuring delivery of the right homes in the right places at the right price. Several reports were highlighted as reference for the way forward and planners were encouraged to be bold when planning for new development.

"Thank you for the presentations you forwarded and also for the report. I thought the event was very informative and extremely well chaired"
Delegate feedback after Fixing the Broken Housing Market debate.



The team from Nottingham City Council, winners of the LA award.



The President Stephen Wilkinson on a visit to Leicester City centre.

Supporting and Growing Membership.

CPD programme

We were pleased to offer four low cost CPD events to the membership and non-members to assist in their development, together with seven free events. The topics ranged from the law update, rural planning to provision of affordable housing. Two joint events with RICS, RIBA and LI attracted over 200 delegates and were valuable networking opportunities with other professions.

The Young Planners group provided a site visit to the Peak District National Park and Chatsworth.

We have generally received good feedback following all the events and plan to continue to offer the half-day low cost or free format next year. We are planning events on infrastructure, housing land supply and the annual law update for 2018.

Future Planners

Our Young Planners represented the RTPI at five careers events, two at schools in Leicester, two in Nottingham and at the

University of Sheffield, show casing the work of planners and promoting planning as a career choice for young people.

We have also been working with the national RTPI team to promote an apprenticeship programme in town planning and recruiting local authorities and private practice to identify opportunities to recruit apprentices. The course started in October at Moulton College, Northampton with the first six students signed up.

Licentiate Assessment of Professional Competence

We have supported two seminars/workshops for those looking to follow the L-APC route to chartered membership. Providing guidance and advice on what is needed in preparing an application, what should be included and how it should be presented. Chartered Young Planners were on hand to share their experiences and give their top tips for success.

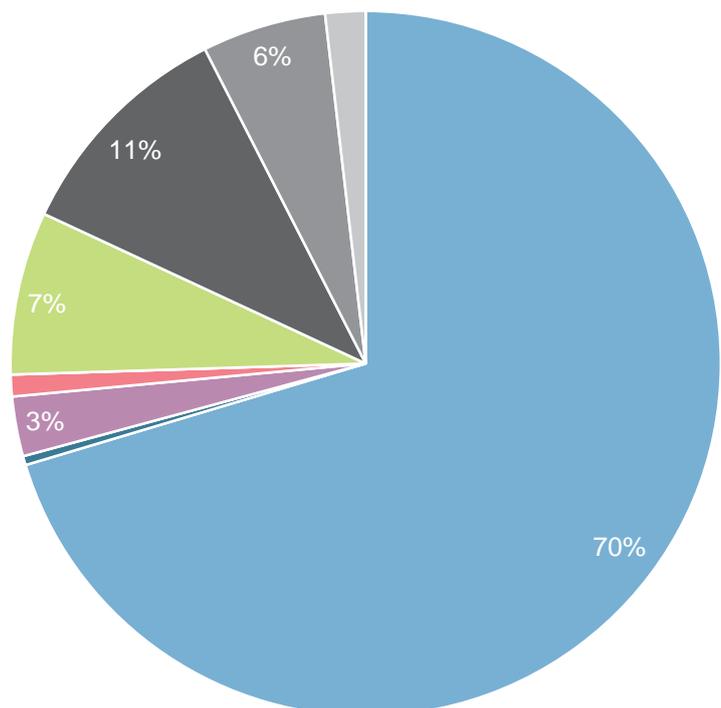
“Really useful event, thank you. A good afternoon debate and discussion.”
Delegate feedback after the New Housing Agenda on 11 October.

Regional Membership Figures 2017

Membership Class

- Chartered Town Planner
- Fellow
- Associate
- Legal Associate
- Technical
- Retired
- Honorary
- Licentiate
- Student
- Affiliate

*This class includes Legal Members



Shaping and Informing Policy and Practice.

Local authority provision of housing.

Planners and housing officers met in Grantham in March to discuss provision of housing by their authorities to contribute to the national research being carried out by UCL having been commissioned by the National Planning Forum and RTPI. Some authorities used ALMOs, others had set up development companies and others had no current plans to develop social housing and wanted to learn from others. Derby City Council presented a number of exemplar developments they had recently undertaken through their company.

The final report "Local authority direct provision of housing" was published in December.

Planning for the right homes in the right places

Regional members met in October to discuss the Government's recent consultation on housing provision. The discussion focused on the proposed approach to calculating local

housing need and Statement of Common Ground (SOC), together with the mix of housing.

There were a number of general comments about the proposals, namely, simplification of the process is welcomed, methodology does not take account of jobs, how deliverable are the higher targets, ONS data changes quite frequently, the proposals exacerbate the north/south divide and there is no evidence base for the 0.25% uplift or percentage cap on the uplift.

Members recommended that housing need is strategically assessed on Housing Market Area (HMA) basis and not local authority administrative boundaries. Constraining planning of housing numbers to LA boundaries will significantly affect delivery of housing in areas where there is limited land availability. Reliance on informal cooperation between LAs will impact delivery.

See our response to the consultation.

"Great to get the opportunity to discuss the consultation – it has helped clarify my thoughts on it."
Regional member working in a local authority.



The CPD event Rural Estate Planning at Locko Park sponsored by Fisher German.



The debate "Fixing the Broken Housing Market."

Achieving Good Governance.

Business Plan 2017

The aims, objectives and targets for the region are set out in the Business Plan. This was developed and agreed by the Regional Management Board in the autumn of the previous year. Performance against plan was then monitored through the year at quarterly meetings of the Forum.

Performance against income targets was reviewed after each income generating CPD event to ensure sufficient income to achieve target. Due to the lower number of planners attending charged events there was a small shortfall on income against budget.

We continue to use low cost venues and are extremely grateful to a number of organisations who provide free venues for our events. Generally the CPD events are a half day and in easily accessible locations.

The 2018 events are currently being organised with L-APC briefing and Infrastructure Planning and Provision scheduled for March 2018.

Regional Structure

The Regional Management Board and Regional Forum consists of fourteen members in total, who represent local authorities and private practice. The Forum meets quarterly to plan and monitor activities.

We have two sub committees, one overseeing the awards and the other for the CPD programme.

The Young Planners committee plans and delivers their own programme of free social and CPD events. 2018 will see the Young Planners Conference in the Region and a separate committee has been set up to deliver this.

Supporting and delivering Planning Aid the Region has proved challenging and this will be a priority next year. Knowledge of the PAE service amongst local authorities is low and a marketing campaign to raise the profile of the service is planned for early 2018.

“Quarterly reports to the Regional Forum are helpful in keeping track of income and expenditure through the year.”

John Scott, Honorary Secretary

Summary Income and Expenditure for events

	2015 £	2016 £	2017 £	2018 Budget £
Income from CPD events	4345	6764	6600	4500
Expenditure	1700	1408	1468	1500



RTPI

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The RTPI is a charity registered in England (262865) and Scotland (SC037841).
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