



RTPI Cymru

Royal Town Planning Institute
Sefydliad Cynllunio Trefol Brenhinol

Royal Town Planning Institute
Cymru (RTPI Cymru)
Studio 107
Creative Quarter
8a Morgan Arcade
Cardiff
CF10 1AF
Tel +44 (0)20 7929 8197
email walespolicy@rtpi.org.uk
www.rtpi.org.uk/wales

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e-mail response sent to: planconsultations-c@gov.wales

Dear Sir/Madam,

Response to: Air quality & soundscape review of TAN 11

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the largest professional institute for planners in Europe, representing some 25,000 spatial planners. RTPI Cymru represents the RTPI in Wales, with 1,100 members. The Institute seeks to advance the science and art of planning, working for the long-term common good and well-being of current and future generations. The RTPI develops and shapes policy affecting the built environment, works to raise professional standards and supports members through continuous education, training and development.

This response has been formed drawing on the expertise of the RTPI Cymru Policy and Research Forum which includes a cross section of planning practitioners from the private and public sectors and academia from across Wales.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond. While we do not have any specific examples of good practice we have the following observations to make in relation to planning.

We welcome the review of TAN11. There is a need for cross national guidance for Wales which would integrate land use planning considerations with consideration of emissions legislation and controls.

Broadening awareness of air quality issues and encouraging changes in behaviour that contribute to improving air pollution is an important but challenging priority. We believe that any positive change will require a multi-faceted approach involving greater collaboration between key agencies such as those in the health sector, local

authorities, academic bodies, third sector and local groups. As planning and investment decisions in respect of infrastructure provision can positively or negatively impact upon air quality, it is essential that air quality be referenced within the remit of the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales. It is also essential that the Welsh Transport Strategy, the Welsh Infrastructure Investment Plan and the National Development Framework are fully aligned with achieving Welsh Government's commitments to improve air quality and tackle the climate change emergency.

Given the need for a multi-faceted approach towards air quality and soundscape, the sharing of good practice is important and we support the call for that evidence as part of this consultation. In terms of practice, RTPI Cymru supported the approach set out in the "Intelligent tree and hedge planting supporting air quality improvements" section of the Clean Air Plan Plan for Wales. We think the role of green infrastructure in improving air quality should have greater emphasis, in particular the role of urban tree planting and vegetation provision in combination with SuDs and innovative solutions such as green walls which assist pollution dispersal and facilitate deposition.

If you require further assistance, please contact RTPI Cymru on 020 7929 8197 or e-mail Roisin Willmott at walespolicy@rtpi.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Dr Roisin Willmott OBE FRTPi
Director
RTPI Cymru