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Board of Trustees

RTPI Scotland Update

Report from the Director of Scotland, Ireland and English Regions

FOR INFORMATION

The Board is asked to note the report.

1. Summary

This report provides a summary of the activities undertaken by RTPI Scotland since the last meeting of BOT.

2. Pillar 1 - The Value of Membership

All RTPI Scotland events continue to be held online

Chapters

Events continue to be held online and feedback from Chapters and the Scottish Young Planners' Network indicates a positive view that online events should continue to a significant part of the events diet, even after face to face events become possible. In 2021 we've held 5 Chapter AGM events and 5 further CPD events:

- Digital Consultation during COVID-19 (Grampian)- 148 delegates
- What lies beneath (Highlands and Islands) – 114 delegates
- Shared Transport (Central) – 83 delegates
- Dumfries and Galloway town centre fund (Dumfries and Galloway) – 51 delegates
- COP 26, the road to Glasgow (West of Scotland) – 85 delegates

Chapters are now working to complete event planning for the rest of 2021 and this will be fed in to the Institute's Events Planning Group as we look to agree the finalised programme of events from across the RTPI for the remainder of the year.

Sir Patrick Geddes Commemorative Lecture

The Geddes lecture is scheduled to be held on the afternoon of 24 June. It will be held online and will be free to members, with a £25 charge for non members, which is in line with the position for Chapter events. Alice Charles MRTPI, Lead for Cities, Infrastructure & Urban Services in the World Economic Forum, has agreed to given the lecture. You can read Alice's bio at https://www.weforum.org/agenda/authors/alice-charles

Scottish Planner

The Scottish Planner journal was published in late March. This focussed on planners' response to COVID-19 and the implications of the pandemic for planning.

3. Pillar 2 - Supporting Planning Services

Digital Planning

We have signed a contract with the Scottish Government Digital Planning Team for the RTPI to manage research to assess the current 'state of play' regarding skills and knowledge on digital planning. This will aim to:

- assess the level of skills and knowledge on digital planning
- assess the level of skills and knowledge gaps on digital planning
- develop a baseline to allow for the mapping of progress
- identify the challenges and opportunities to inform the development and delivery of skills programme
- scope and test what an effective skills development programme could look like
- discover what is happening elsewhere that we can learn from

This will provide a picture of the skills, knowledge and behaviour changes required to ensure that those working in the planning system can embed digital planning into their work along with the opportunities and barriers faced in implementing these. It will inform the drawing up of a capacity building programme including a menu of tools and activities that will support the upskilling of planners on digital approaches. Consultants have been appointed to undertake the research.

The research will help to agree a systematic and integrated programme of work focussed around 4 areas of activities including sharing best practice and learning; networking and connecting those involved; shaping practice; and championing digital planning and challenging stakeholders to embed

it into their work. The plan is that RTPI will deliver this programme, in association with relevant partners, between September 2021 and March 2025.

4. Pillar 3 - Raising the Profile of Planning

Policy Consultations

Responses have been submitted to the following consultations and requests for written evidence:

- National Planning Framework: Position Statement
- Planning system - promotion and mediation: draft guidance – consultation, Scottish Government
- Draft Public Engagement Strategy for Climate Change
- Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme (LCITP) call for evidence
- Consultation on Scottish skills requirements for energy efficiency, zero emissions and low carbon heating systems, microgeneration and heat networks for homes

We are considering the following consultations:

- Local Place Plan Regulations consultation, deadline: 25 June https://consult.gov.scot/local-government-and-communities/local-place-plan-regulations/

Scottish Parliamentary Elections

RTPI Scotland have set up an election hub on the website with a comparison of the political parties' manifestos, and an analysis of manifestos from key built environment stakeholders.

Moving forward we are now preparing a post-election engagement strategy, looking to support newly MSPs with information and key asks of the profession ahead of the draft NPF4 expected in autumn. This will include the need to potentially build a new relationship with a new planning minister and potential changes to portfolios. This briefing will look to amalgamate varying strands of work including our response to the NPF4 Position Statement, election manifesto and 10 big ideas for NPF4.

5. Pillar 4 - Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity

Skills in Planning Research

The Partners in Planning group – which RTPI Scotland is a key member of - met on 5 March where it discussed the action plan arising rom the Skills in Planning Research commissioned by Skills Development Scotland. The key priority in taking this forward is exploring if a planning apprenticeship programme can be established in Scotland. This was contained as an 'ask' in our manifesto for the Scottish Election and we will be promoting it to new Ministers and MSPs as part of our post election

lobbying. The Director has also discussed the way forward with the Institute's Apprenticeships officer and will look to draw up an actin plan to move it forward.

6. Health and Safety Implications

All activities are planned with health and safety considerations considered. The activities are heavily influenced by the pandemic.

7. Equality and Diversity Implications

All initiatives and activities undertaken strive to ensure equality and diversity is taken into account. Speaker panels aim to be diverse demonstrating a range of perspectives and role models.

Work to support a Planning Apprenticeship in Scotland aims to provide a different route to become a professional planner which supports those who would not consider university.

8. Resource Implications

All activities are planned and implemented within an agreed budget.

9. Governance and Compliance Implications

RTPI Scotland services are conducted in line with the RTPI's bye-laws and regulations. They provide services directed at members based in and within the context of Scotland.

10. Communications Implications

Where appropriate, briefings and press releases are used supported by the Comms Team.

11. Corporate Strategy - Climate action

Climate action has been a topic covered during events.

12. Corporate Strategy - GROWPLAN

During the year membership of the RTPI has been promoted to members and the value of membership has been communicated to members, including recognising excellence in planning and supporting planning services in Scotland.

13. Corporate Strategy - Digital Transformation

Services in Scotland benefit from digital investment including the website and CRM and use this to roll out services in Scotland.