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Board of Trustees

RTPI Ireland Update

Report from the Director of Scotland, Ireland and English Regions

FOR INFORMATION

The Board is asked to note this report

1. Summary

This report provides an update of RTPI activities Ireland since the last meeting of the BOT.

2. Pillar 1 - The Value of Membership

Irish Planning Institute

We are in discussion with the Irish Planning Institute (IPI) about closer working between the Institutes and a Memorandum of Understanding is being considered by Trustees through another item on the agenda. This focusses around developing complementary and joint CPD and social/ networking events and public affairs and policy work including joint or complimentary lobbying and representation.

Events

All RTPI Ireland events continue to be held online. Three events have been held so far this year:

- **23 February: Member Open Forum: Putting Town Centres First?**
  The event looked at the issues and opportunities for town centres in Ireland and examined what planners can do to support them. It also explored lessons from Scotland on its Town Centre First Principle – which has been in place since 2014 - and the recent Review of their Town Centre Action Plan. Speakers were Giulia Vallone, Cork County Council and Prof Leigh Sparks, Chair, Scotland's Town Partnership
- **25 March: Irish Planning Lecture: The Freiburg Approach to Sustainable Urbanism**
  Wulf Daseking former Chief Planner of Freiburg discussed how development processes must include all stages of urban planning from formulating concepts to final, detailed

implementation – an all-around approach to urban planning. The overriding principle is to achieve a balance between economy, ecology, cultural diversity and most importantly - social aspects.

- **25 May: Member Open Forum: Marine Planning**
  This explored emerging policy and practice in marine planning. It discussed the current state of the play with the National Marine Planning Framework and explore how the land planning and marine planning regimes can complement one another. Speakers were Conor Norton, Technological University Dublin and Philp Nugent from Irish Government.

Forthcoming events include:

- **7 September: The Irish Planner Live – Planning for Zero Carbon.**
  The Irish Planner Live will be a short online conference featuring 3 session looking at different aspects where planners can support the drive to achieve net zero carbon: 10am – 11am – Compact Growth; 1pm – 2pm – Transport; 4pm – 5pm – Energy
- **6 October: Annual Law Lecture by Eammon Galligan SC**
- **11 November: Annual Dinner**
- **14 December: Annual Member Meeting**

3. Pillar 2 - Supporting Planning Services

Digital Planning

We are in ongoing discussions with the Irish Planning Institute about making the case for greater use, of and investment in digital planning approaches in Ireland. As part of this we have pointed to the commitment to this in parts of the UK, especially Scotland where a £35m digital planning programme has been announced which will include a partnership with the RTPI to support planners 'readiness'.

Office of the Planning Regulator

RTPI Ireland continue to engage with the new Office of the Planning Regulator. The Director is a member of the OPR's National Planning Knowledge Group and presented to the meeting on 5 May on RTPI research Measuring What Matters: Planning Outcomes Toolkit which received funding from the OPR and Irish Government, amongst others. The research produced specific a resources for Ireland including the Planning Outcomes Irish Toolkit, Toolkit Handbook which provides guidance to users of the toolkit and Irish Pilot Case Studies, which discusses the Irish context and summarise the findings from the pilots. This discussion is to be followed up so as to see how the toolkit an promoted across Ireland, embedded within local authorities and supported.

4. Pillar 3 - Raising the Profile of Planning

Land Development Agency

We have published briefing on the Land Development Agency Bill which will lead to the establishment of a new organisation to "properly manage and utilise stateowned lands". The RTPI generally welcomes the objectives of the Bill set within the context of the National Planning Framework (NPF), particularly with regard to ensuring compact urban development, which has a lesser climate impact than urban sprawl or rural development. The Institute also welcomes the intention to deliver better land supply and hence increased housing affordability, promoting social equity.

5. Health and Safety Implications

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

6. 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.

7. Resource Implications

All activities are planned and implemented within an agreed budget.

8. Governance and Compliance Implications

RTPI Ireland 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 Ireland.

9. Communications Implications

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

10. Corporate Strategy - Climate action

Climate action has been a topic covered during events.

11. 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 Ireland.

12. Corporate Strategy - Digital Transformation

None.

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