



RTPI Scotland
mediation of space · making of place

Annual Report 2016

Creating Great Places for People

INTRODUCTION BY THE CONVENOR

This has been an incredibly busy year for planning in Scotland which has been dominated by the Planning Review and the forthcoming consultation on the future of planning in Scotland. I am delighted that the discussion around this has been taken forward in a very inclusive way by Scottish Government. They have done a great job engaging with those with an interest in the planning system in very tight timescales.

The debate has been constructive and positive, focussing on how planning can help deliver the places that Scotland needs. RTPI Scotland has taken a leading role in the discussions, culminating with the publication of our paper "Repositioning Planning" which sets out our views on the shape of a future planning system. However, let us not forget that we have also seen the election of a new Scottish Government and new Ministers and MSPs in post. This has given RTPI Scotland the opportunity to re-engage and emphasise how planning can help the Government to deliver its ambitions around inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and a low carbon economy. We have welcomed the Ministerial team and have been pleased to be in close contact with Planning Minister Kevin Stewart. We have also talked to around 25 new MSPs to understand their views on planning.

Over the year, we've held some fantastic events including our annual conference in Paisley, which used the Planning Review as its touchstone and included debates on what a new planning system could and should look like. The Scottish Young Planners' Conference was, as ever, a vibrant and enthusiastic event looking at The Planning Review: Issues, Ideas & Innovation. We had an inspiring Annual Geddes Lecture given by Tina Saaby, City Architect in Copenhagen. Our regional Chapters continued to do a sterling job in organising over 50 local, low cost or free events across the length and breadth of Scotland. We have continued to increase our engagement with Ministers, civil servants and other organisations through meetings, working groups, advisory groups and one to ones. We have also maintained our media profile through contributions to Radio Scotland and BBC TV programmes such as Reporting Scotland.

I am delighted with what we have achieved in the year and look forward to continued progress on a new Scottish planning system in 2017.

Nick Wright, Convenor, RTPI Scotland 2016

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

- **65** events have been held for members across Scotland. The very large majority of these were either free or low cost and were attended by around **2000** people
- These include **56** events organised by Chapters: **3** in Dumfries and Galloway; **7** in East of Scotland; **14** in South East Scotland; **10** in Grampian; **5** in the Highlands and Islands; **16** in the West of Scotland; and **6** in the Central Scotland Chapter
- It also includes **9** events organised by Scottish Young Planners Network (including **3** workshops on the Assessment of Professional Competence and the Scottish Young Planners' Annual Conference)
- **350** delegates attending the RTPI Scotland Annual Conference, Sir Patrick Geddes Commemorative Lecture and Scottish Young Planners' Conference
- **17** policy or briefing papers published in response to consultations, calls for evidence or Parliamentary debates
- RTPI Scotland has participated in over **20** advisory groups including the Scottish Government Joint Housing Policy and Delivery Group; the Ministerial High Level Group on Planning Performance and the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Crown Estate;
- **3,600** followers on the @RTPIScotland and @ConvenorRTPIS Twitter Accounts
- **4** editions of Scottish Planner have been published, each sent to **2,300** people
- **21** people have gained MRTPI status in Scotland
- **4** interviews on BBC Radio Scotland and **2** TV appearances on BBC Scotland

HIGHLIGHTS

January Nick Wright becomes Convenor of RTPI Scotland | Submission on Transport Scotland's consultation on the Rail Freight Strategy and Scottish Government's consultation on the Land Use Strategy

February Written Evidence to the Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee on a Moratorium on Shared Space Schemes | Submission to Historic Scotland on its draft Corporate Plan | Election Manifesto Background Paper on Housing published | Attended Parliamentary Cross Party Group on Towns and Town Centres

March Scottish Young Planners' Conference held in Edinburgh on Creating Successful Places | Election Manifesto Background Paper on Investing in Infrastructure published

April Submission to Scottish Government on Draft Planning Delivery Advice on Housing and Infrastructure | Held Building Scotland's Future election hustings in partnership with ICS Scotland, ICE Scotland and RIAS | Dumfries and Galloway Chapter event on Power Generation and Supply | Election Manifesto Background paper on Community Engagement published | Election Manifesto Background Paper on Energy published | Further oral evidence provided to Independent Planning Review Panel | Roundtable discussion on planning for housing with MSPs held in Parliament

May Submission to Scottish Government on its Draft Planning Delivery Advice on Housing and Infrastructure | On Radio Scotland discussing planning for football stadia | Presented to Holyrood conference on planning | East Scotland Chapter event on Land Reform | West of Scotland Chapter event on Strategic Issues in Housing Delivery | Highlands and Islands Chapter study visit to Aviemore

June Tina Saaby, City Architect in Copenhagen gave the Sir Patrick Geddes Commemorative Lecture | Convenor gave speech to Heads of Planning Scotland Annual Conference | RTPI President Phil Williams visited Irvine, Kilmarnock and Loch Lomond | Director judged Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning | RTPI Scotland broadly welcomes the Independent Review of the Scottish Planning System's recommendations | Wrote to all MSPs with a copy of manifesto and a briefing paper on the Planning Review | South East Scotland Chapter event on the planning review |

July Attended Ministerial roundtable discussion | RTPI Scotland welcomed Scottish Government's response to the Planning Review and announcement on White Paper later in 2016 and a Planning Bill in 2017 | Met with Convenor and Clerks of Scottish Parliament Local Government and Communities Committee

August Chaired Scottish Parliament Festival of Politics event on Smart Cities | Submission to Scottish Government on Proposals for Establishing the Interim Body to Manage the Crown Estate Assets in Scotland Post-Devolution | Submission to Scottish Government on its Review of the Social Housing Charter | Discussed how planning can regenerate towns on BBC Radio Scotland

September Discussed infrastructure needs of new housing on BBC Reporting Scotland | Submission to Scottish Government on its consultation on Child Poverty Bill | Director gave oral evidence to Scottish Parliament Local Government and Communities Committee | RTPI attended planning review discussion workshops | Written Evidence to Scottish Parliament European and External Relations Committee on Scotland's Relationship with the EU | RTPI Scotland hosted Scottish Forum for Planning to discuss planning review | APC events organised by Scottish Young Planners' Network in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow

October RTPI Scotland Annual Conference on Empowering Planning, Transforming Places held in Paisley | RTPI hosted Scottish Planning Skills Forum | Attended Ministerial roundtable on tax for vacant and derelict land

November Convenor spoke at Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning | Attended infrastructure funding workshop as part of planning review | Attended Ministerial High Level Group on Planning Performance | Grampian Chapter event on Aberdeen City Centre Master Plan | Central Scotland Chapter event on planning for housing

December Repositioning Planning: Building a Successful and Sustainable Scotland published in advance of the planning white paper consultation

THE TEAM

Scottish Executive Committee

Nick Wright, Convenor | Stefano Smith, Senior Vice Convenor | Fraser Carlin, Junior Vice Convenor | Pam Ewen, Immediate Past Convenor | Ian Angus, Representative to RTPI Board of Trustees

Tammy Adams | Julia Frost | Eric Dawson | Andrew Sim | Irene Beautyman | Richard Heggie | Graham Marchbank | Barbara Cummins | Sean Panton

Alexandra Lewis, Central Scotland Chapter | Catherine Elliot, Dumfries and Galloway Chapter | Nicola Orr, East of Scotland Chapter | Sam Jackson, South East Scotland Chapter | Claire McArthur, Grampian Chapter | Julie-Ann Bain, Highlands and Islands Chapter | Duncan Smart, West of Scotland Chapter

Elaine Fotheringham, Scottish Young Planners' Network | Kevin Murray, Scottish Planning Skills Forum | Stuart Salter, Scottish Planning Consultants' Forum

Staff

Daniel Fawcett, Intern Project Officer (until July) | Kate Houghton, Policy and Practice Officer (from June) | Nikola Miller, Planning Policy and Practice Officer (until May) | Craig McLaren, Director | Annette O'Donnell, Office Manager

SUPPORTERS

Thanks go to the following organisations that have supported our work in the 2016:

Aberdeenshire Council | Barton Willmore | Brodies | City of Edinburgh Council | Geddes Consulting | Heads of Planning Scotland | Icen Projects | The Improvement Service | Peter Brett Associates | Renfrewshire Council | Scottish Government | Shepherd and Wedderburn

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome new members who gained MRTPI status in 2016:

Clara Thompson | Richard Turner | Oliver Munden | Victoria Grant | Holly Gillingham | Rhiannon Moylan | Aline Kirkland | Matthew Watson | Andrew Marshall | Fiona Struthers | Mairi Anne Maciver | Lorna Aird | Craig Swankie | James White | Evelyn Wilson | Adele Shaw | David Wilson | Sonia MacDonald | Lucy Sumner | Craig Jardine | Ross McMahon

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