



RTPI East Midlands

mediation of space · making of place

Royal Town Planning Institute

Annual Review 2016



East Midlands Region

Chair's Forward

A look back at 2016

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 February to start the year with over a hundred planners attending to hear the key note speech from Steve Quartermain. Our CPD programme attracted just under five hundred planners, both members and non-members with topics including Rural Planning, Affordable Housing and Design Quality and Market Value.

The challenge has been the involvement with Planning Aid volunteers and the Forum will look to strengthen links with volunteers and appoint a regional representative.

Young Planners

Our Young Planners Group is going from strength to strength, provides both CPD and social events for the membership, and encourages non-members to join. The highlight being a summer social river cruise, which was enjoyed by over 80 planners. In

addition, CPD events on 5-year land supply, redevelopment of heritage assets and a visit to a sewage treatment works. They have been able to offer all events free because of very generous sponsorship and we are most grateful to these organisations for their support.

Professional Links

I am pleased to have represented the Region at other built environment professions' events, including the RIBA Awards and the launch of the Construction Industry Council BEinspired programme. I look forward to continuing to improve our links with other organisations during next year.

Appreciation

My thanks go to Lonek Wojtulewicz, Leicestershire County Council who has edited our Spectrum newsletter for a number of years and Liberty Stones, Fisher German who led the CPD group as both are stepping down from the positions.

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
- Peter Williams
- Stephen Coult
- Shilpa Rasaiah
- Tanya Rountree
- Lonek Wojtulewicz
- Maureen Darrie
- Christopher Jesson

Championing the Planning profession.

Regional Awards for Planning Excellence

Steve Quartermain of DCLG presented the winners with their awards at Nottingham Contemporary on 25 February. Over a hundred planners saw summaries of the award entries highlighting the judges winning planning criteria. The winner of the development category was Leicester City Council for the Richard III centre, Northamptonshire Council for the Community Flood Resilience Plan won the plan category, Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit took the local authority team category, Fisher German won the consultants award and the Young Planners Group took the Chair's Award.

The President's visit

November saw President Phil Williams visit the Region, with his first day spent in Lincoln looking at exemplar projects where new and redeveloped sites are being integrated into heritage settings. The impressive Magna Carta vault at Lincoln castle was the first stop on his tour. City of Lincoln Council hosted discussions about their housing strategy and plans for large-scale development within the city boundaries. The second part of the

President's visit was an open debate on the potential impacts of the UK decision to leave the European Union on planning and the profession. Over 40 planners heard Janice Morphet of UCL identify the key areas of impact from regional funding to infrastructure schemes and subsidies. The President highlighted the response by the RTPI on ensuring we have the skills to help deliver a sustainable future and economic growth and development.

“Planners are central to preserving Lincoln’s past and ensuring new developments are sensitively integrated into the city. Lincoln’s heritage is a strong draw card for tourists so it is critical that is preserved and enhanced.” Phil Williams.



Young Planners Group with the Chairman's Award.



The President Philip Williams at Lincoln Castle with Kieron Manning, City of Lincoln Council and Michael Braithwaite, Regional Chair.

Supporting and Growing Membership.

CPD programme

We were pleased to offer five low cost CPD events to the membership and non-members to assist in their development, together with nine free events. The topics ranged from the law update, rural planning to provision of affordable housing. The Young Planners group provided a number of events and site visits. The very topical issue of 5-year housing land supply was the most well attended Young Planner event.

We have generally received good feedback following all the events and plan to continue to offer the half-day low cost format next year.

Future Planners

Our Young Planners represented the RTPI at the construction sector's Property Needs You Show, showcasing the work of planners and promoting planning as a career.

We have also been working with the national RTPI team to promote an apprenticeship programme in town planning and recruiting local authorities to identify opportunities to

recruit apprentices. It is hoped that this will run at Moulton College in 2017.

Assessment of Professional Competence

We continue to provide APC briefing events for licentiates and this year held an evening meeting in Leicester in September.

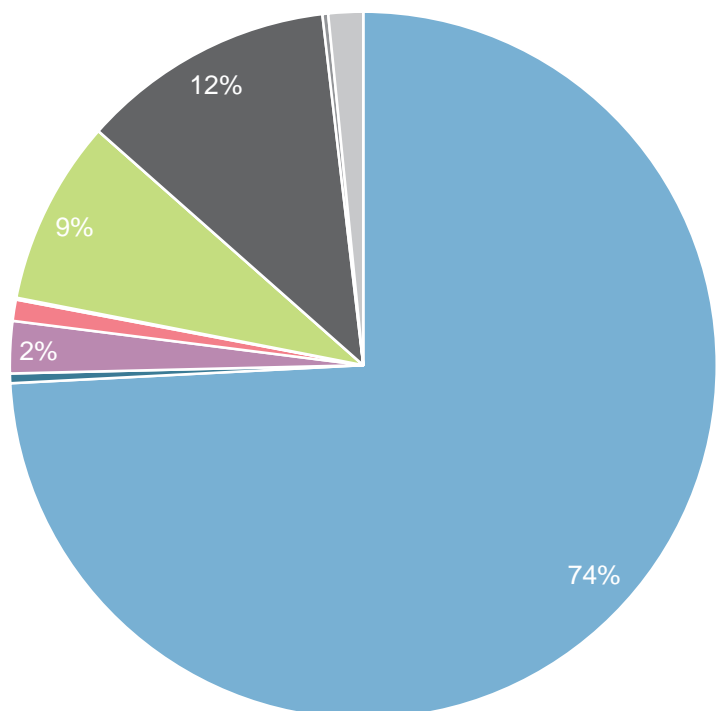
“Update on Housing and Planning Act was very helpful, as was information on the role of LEPs, an aspect which I had not previously understood.”
Kay Davies,
Fisher German.

Regional Membership Figures 2016

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.

Location of development

Regional members from both local authorities in and around Nottingham and an academic from Nottingham Trent University met in July to contribute to the consultation on the location of development policy paper led by the national policy team. Issues raised were green field versus brown field, how is sustainable development actually delivered where there is limited land availability and limited connectivity of transport systems. Nottingham is seen as typical of towns in the Region with daily commuting from surrounding villages placing particular emphasis on transport methods. The viability of a number of brownfield sites has led to a number remaining undeveloped for many years.

Housing the Nation

Members also contributed to the consultation by the policy team on housing. The roundtable discussion was held in October with members from both the private sector and local authorities contributing. The issue of green field and green belt were discussed together with brownfield first policy. It was felt that many of the points highlighted in the previous roundtable in July were relevant and the

emphasis should be on plan led development rather than site by site assessment.

The policy team collated all the regional views to inform the national publication and the [Policy Statement, *Where should we build new homes?*](#) was published in November.

CPD Programme

The programme addresses topical issues and highlights best practice to help planners in their day-to-day jobs. Site visits are an important way of helping broaden knowledge and help to shape planning practice. The Young Planners group visited the sewage works serving Derby to see the processes involved and on another occasion visited Delapre Abbey in Northamptonshire to see the restoration and change of use of a historic building.

“The Location of Development project is helping to evidence the importance of good planning, the roundtable was a great opportunity for us to inform the national debate.”

Steve
Birkinshaw,
Erewash
Borough
Council.



Young Planners on a site visit to a sewage treatment works serving Derby City.



Young Planners visit to Delapre Abbey in Northamptonshire.

Empowering Communities

Planning Aid England Outreach activity

PAE in the East Midlands worked closely with Mansfield District Council to provide support for the Mansfield Draft Local Plan consultation that took place at locations across Mansfield in January and February 2016 (all locations identified as being within the top 30% most deprived in England based on 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation). Eleven PAE volunteers provided support across 16 drop-sessions offering independent and impartial advice to local residents. Support for the consultation was co-ordinated centrally by PAE staff, but the volunteers operated autonomously at the event with senior volunteers mentoring two student members who attended to support PAE. We received very positive feedback from Council: 'Thank you and all of the volunteers for their help. Whilst generally we have all had really interesting sessions and good discussions with the community, I do feel that having the independence of Planning Aid there has supported the openness and

honesty of the consultation and also promotes the importance of Planning Aid', Rob Routledge, Planning Policy Manager, Mansfield District Council. One of the student volunteers found this experience particularly valuable "Volunteering for PAE [in Mansfield] was a brilliant opportunity and great learning experience! I have been able to engage local people in the town planning process and, in working alongside experienced planners, I have learned a lot about applying planning theory in practise and potential career paths."

Gabrielle Appiah, Student PAE volunteer.

Property Needs You Show

Christopher Jesson and Amy Davies from the Young Planners Group attended the careers event in Leicester to highlight the work of planners and planning to teachers and trainers from schools and colleges in the area.

"Volunteering for PAE [in Mansfield] was a brilliant opportunity and great learning experience! I have been able to engage local people in the town planning process."

Gabrielle Appiah, Student PAE



Property needs You Careers event, Christopher Jesson featured.

Achieving Good Governance

Business Plan 2016

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 number of planners attending events the annual target income was reached and exceeded.

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 2017 events are currently being organised with L-APC briefing and Planning Law Update scheduled for March 2017.

Regional Structure

The Regional Management Board and Regional Forum consists of sixteen members in total, who represent local authorities, private practice and academia. 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 programme of free social and CPD events.

Support to Planning Aid volunteers in the Region was not provided and this will be addressed next year.

“Our key objectives to incrementally expand our engagement with members was achieved and our sound financial performance lays a firm foundation for 2017.” Steve Birkinshaw, Hon. Treasurer.

Summary Income and Expenditure excluding staff costs

	2015 £	2016 £	2017 Budget £
Income from CPD events	4345	6764	6000
Expenditure	1700	1408	1600



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