

NATIONS AND REGIONS PANEL

NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES of the Nations and Regions Panel on 12 September 2022 13:00-16:00 - online only.

PRESENT: Sue Bridge (Vice Chair, in the chair until 15:00), Rachel Brown (Ireland), Steve Kemp (East Midlands), Wendy Hague (East of England), Harry Burchill (London), Andrew Dorrian (North East), Joanne Harding (North West, until 15:31), Harry Quartermain (South West), Bryan Smith (West Midlands), Will Ryan (Wales, until 13:55), Mura Quigley (Northern Ireland)

In attendance: Craig McLaren (Director of Scotland, Ireland and English Regions), Sarah Woodford (Head of English Regions), Roisin Wilmott (Director of Wales, Northern Ireland and PAE), Victoria Hills (Chief Executive), Lizzy Millar (Governance and Compliance Officer), Beatrice Crabb (International Lead – item 9 only).

Apologies: Rebecca Dewey (Chair), Pamela Clifford (Scotland), Simon Taylor (South East).

Absent: Will Steel (Yorkshire)

Minute Taker: Lizzy Millar

Item		Action
1	<p>Introduction and Welcome</p> <p>SB the Vice Chair agreed to chair the meeting in the absence of the Chair. The Vice Chair welcomed members to the meeting.</p>	
1.1	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>The Panel accepted apologies on behalf of Rebecca Dewey (Chair), Pamela Clifford (Scotland) and Simon Taylor.</p>	
1.2	<p>Conflicts of Interest</p> <p>There were no conflicts of interest.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes from meeting held on 22 June 2022</p> <p>The Panel accepted minutes from the last meeting on 22 June 2022 without any revision. There were no matters arising from these minutes.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	

3	<p>Update on Board of Trustees</p> <p>The Vice Chair gave a verbal update in her capacity as Chair of the Board of Trustees.</p> <p>The Board of Trustees last met on 13 July 2022 at which they approved the recommendation to increase the annual membership fees for 2023, a review of the Professional Conduct for Trustees and accepted a revised Volunteering Policy.</p> <p>The NRP response to the 2023 elections campaign launched on 5 September 2022 was disappointing: no applications had been received for the role of Nations Trustee. Submissions were due to close on 23 September. The Board would be notified of the elections results of the three candidates for the role of Chair of the Board of Trustees at their next meeting on 5 October 2022.</p> <p>All external-facing events had been paused during the national week of mourning for the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II, apart from RTPI-led activities in the Republic of Ireland.</p> <p>The NRP noted the update.</p>	
4	<p>Verbal feedback to the BOT from representatives of the Nations and Regions Panel</p> <p>The North West representative gave an update on planning policy and practice from across the North West and shared this paper lpa-best-practice.pdf (rtpi.org.uk)</p> <p>The North West representative sought assurance for on-going support and investment from regional reserves for NURTURE and the Young Planners' mentoring scheme.</p> <p>See item 7 for North West Engagement Plan.</p>	
5	<p>Presidential Visits in 2023 (verbal update)</p> <p>The NRP was invited to submit requests for dates of presidential visits with the new President in 2023. The Presidential Engagements Grid 2023 was shared with the Panel.</p> <p>During her term in office, the new president would advocate on behalf of local authority town planners, who, had been subjected to unnecessary aggression from the public. The new president would also promote a</p>	

	<p>case for ring-fencing planning fees in relation to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2023/2024.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
6	<p>Nations and Regions Update for 2022.</p> <p>NRP representatives were invited to update members on their recent activities.</p> <p>Written submissions were received from the</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. North East 2. North West 3. Republic of Ireland 4. West Midlands 5. South West <p>Verbal updates were received from</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. West Midlands 2. Ireland 3. East of England 4. London 5. Wales 6. North East 7. Scotland <p>Members who gave verbal updates were asked to list headlines only and to forward a written outline of their summaries after the meeting.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
7	<p>Project Spotlight – LPA Engage (presentation)</p> <p>The North West Representative updated the Panel on developments of the LPA Engage Business Plan set up in 2019 to appoint a person from each LPA in the North West to act as a point of contact. The LPA Engage Business Plan was launched in June 2022 to show how the region planned to support LPA Planners over the next 18 months.</p> <p>The North West Representative shared LPA Best Practice Case Studies and lpa-best-practice.pdf (rtpi.org.uk).</p> <p>Next steps included drafting CPD goals and rolling out a potential LPA research project. The success of the project</p>	

	<p>would not have been possible without the input and enthusiasm of a group of senior planners and consultants, led by the NW Chair, Kieran Blaydes.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
8	<p>One Institute – Update and Regional Reserves</p> <p>The Panel referred to the NRP Project One Institute Update by the Director of Scotland, Ireland and English Regions shared before the meeting.</p>	
8.1	<p>RECOMMENDATION: Panel members were invited to submit comments on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the proposed One Institute Charter (Annex A) 2. the criteria and process for spending down regional reserves the proposal to use a percentage of regional reserves to support the delivery of the Volunteer Strategy in 2023 and 2024. 3. Early Career Research Grants - RMB's to consider as part of the Business Planning process and respond to the questions no later than 23 September 2022. <p>The Panel confirmed that RMBs were broadly supportive of the options listed in the report, in particular the process and criteria for drawing down regional reserves, and had asked that any research undertaken formally recognised the contribution made by Regions.</p> <p>Members agreed to forward comments to the Director of Scotland, Ireland and English Regions no later than 23 September 2022 to be incorporated into report to be submitted to the Board of Trustees on 5 October 2022.</p>	
8.2	<p>ACTION: RMBs and any NECs to forward comments on the NRP Project One Institute Update to the Director of Scotland, Ireland and English Regions no later than 23 September 2022.</p>	All

<p>9</p>	<p>Events Strategy – Regions and Nations Reflections.</p> <p>The Head of English Regions shared some initial thoughts on how the RTPI will progress a new events strategy for the Nations and Regions. Linked to this, the International Lead informed the Panel of the strategic priorities of the RTPI International Strategy and how the NRP could support its delivery. The NRP was invited to send any comments/suggestions to inform an updated report to the Board of Trustees on 5 October 2022.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to explore how they might:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver grass-roots initiatives with a global impact - Encourage and generate locally-produced content for a global audience and/or specific regions elsewhere in the world facing similar challenges/opportunities. - Promote webinars to the RTPI’s 1,500 international members - Review pricing of webinars and training events and explore funding opportunities through sponsorships/partnerships - Align all content with EDI pillars, the Volunteers Strategy and Code of Conduct - Carry out a gaps analysis and identify any themes and/or opportunities to appeal to a wider or international audience. <p>Noted.</p> <p>ACTION: Share calendar of international events with NRP.</p>	<p>BC/SW</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Right Homes Consultation (verbal update)</p> <p>The Panel was invited to review the paper NRP RTPI Right Homes Panel by the Chief Executive Officer (CEX) and was asked to consider what does ‘good look like’ for the RTPI by 2030.</p> <p>The Panel noted that the retrofit of the freehold property in Botolph Lane was nearing completion and that the RTPI had leased office in Edinburgh, due for renewal in 2025, and in Cardiff.</p> <p>Members noted that, as a planning institute, the RTPI was</p>	

10.1	<p>best placed to manage its own estate in uncertain times, in accordance with its charitable status. Members would monitor the use of rented offices in Wales and Scotland and explore the viability of hiring shared workspaces elsewhere.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>ACTION: Email comments/suggestions to CEX for inclusion in a report to the General Assembly on 19 October 2022 and then to the Board of Trustees on 14 December 2022.</p>	All
11	<p>Chief Planners of Tomorrow (presentation)</p> <p>The Head of English Regions summarised and shared a PP on Chief Planners of Tomorrow; a work-shadowing scheme offering RTPI Young Planners the chance to take on the role of a chief planning officer for the day.</p> <p>The Panel was invited to help promote the scheme to more young planners.</p> <p>The Panel thanked the Head of English Regions for the continued success of the scheme.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
12	<p>AOB</p> <p>The Panel noted the previous sets of minutes of the Board of Trustees and General Assembly meetings in 2022 published on the RTPI website at this link RTPI General Assembly / Trustees meeting papers</p> <p>Dates for meetings in 2023 will be shared after the meeting.</p>	

The meeting closed at 16:00