

## **EXTRACT FROM SD:SPUR PROJECT STEERING GROUP (PSG) MEETING 10, 26 FEB 2007**

### **7. TASK 1: KEY PRINCIPLES (PAPER 55)**

#### **7.1 Background**

CIRIA reported that at the last PSG meeting it was agreed that time be set aside in this meeting to discuss the key principles. At the last team meeting (Jan 07) a revised approach for developing the key principles was agreed and further developed by Carl Reynolds.

In-line with the revised approach CR indicated that this session would be used:

- to ensure PSG members are clear about what a principle is and how it might be used in the SD:SPUR project
- to ensure PSG members are clear about the purpose of having principles and all PSG members have the same understanding of this
- for the PSG to develop some broad ideas and criteria for the development of principles
- for the PSG to clarify areas of agreement, uncertainty and difference of opinion on principles
- for the PSG to agree on composition of a drafting group (Project Team suggested)

Drawing on the experience of developing and implementing the SAFEGROUNDS key principles, CIRIA suggested that the development of SD:SPUR key principles would enable the learning network to:

- incorporate the diverse range of views within the learning network and ensure 'buy-in' to the SD:SPUR approach going forward;
- underpin the SD:SPUR guidance (new or updated), by making explicit the links between particular key principles and the management stages covered by the guidance.

It was noted that the key principles are intended to be:

- aspirational and supportive of improvement on current practice
- voluntary but formed through consensus amongst a broad range of stakeholders
- non-overlapping, complementary and applied together
- a central part of the ethos

The SAFEGROUNDS key principles will be used as an example of how principles have been developed and applied to guidance, but should not constrain the .

#### **7.2 Discussion**

Carl Reynolds led a discussion on the development of SD:SPUR key principles. The following text is transcribed from PowerPoint slides that were updated and displayed 'live' during discussions.

##### **What is a principle?**

- Good
- Fundamental
- Reference point
- Policy / Scientific principles (different)
- Widely accepted as good practice
- [Fundamentally] ethical principles
- You can only judge what is good practice if you have principles in place

- Set a standard (“the ethic”) by which things are judged

**What kind of words should be in the principles?**

- Transparency
- Inclusivity/ Respect for different opinions
- People (future generations/ inter-generational equity)
- Environment
- Protection
- Precautionary principle
- Respect
- Tangible e.g. focus on physical activity
- Consider all relevant factors/ Holistic
- [How specific?]
- Safety
- Sustainability
- practicability
- legal
- morally, ethically & legally responsible
- not driven by minimum regulatory standards
- Engagement, involvement, participation
- Independence/ avoid [being influenced by] expediency
- International experience (informed)
- aspirational and supportive of improvement on current practice
- prevent foreclosure of options
- Govn policy (?) – could be limiting
- Proximity principle (applied at which level?)

**7.3 Way forward**

It was agreed that a drafting group should be established to produce a first draft of the SD:SPUR key principles. The first draft would set out for each draft principle:

- The principle title (e.g. protection of people and the environment)
- A brief description of the principle
- Any points of clarification or definition

The following individuals volunteered to participate in the drafting group: Paul Dorfman, Frank Barnaby, Jill Sutcliffe and potentially a BNG contact (John Potter to explore). It was also suggested that David Owen, as a member of the project team, may be interested in being part of the group.