



Young Planners' Conference 2023

Planning for legacy – regeneration and place in the West Midlands

13-14 October 2023

Millennium Point, Birmingham

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Friday 13th October 2023

9.00 am **Registration**

9.30 am **Welcome Address**

Richard Brown – Senior Director, Planning and Development,
CBRE

Kevin O'Shea – Department Manager, Carrington West

Jenny Wigley KC - Joint Head of Chambers, Landmark Chambers

9.45 am **Opening Address**

Sarah Scannell – Assistant Director for Planning, Birmingham City
Council

10.00 am **Masterplanning for Legacy - Transforming Birmingham
Through Regeneration Projects**

The 2022 Commonwealth Games provided Birmingham with a unique opportunity to attract over five million visitors and present itself on the world stage. However, urban regeneration is a long game; how did we get here? This panel firstly looks back at key moves in transforming the city centre to overcome its reputation as a 'concrete jungle', such as the 2010s Big City Plan and the New Street Station redevelopment. Looking to the future, it will explore how planning policy is seeking to shape the next decade of regeneration projects and how the public and private sectors are collaborating to bring forward new masterplans through a combination of short-term moves and longer-term transformation, including the £1.9bn Smithfield redevelopment.



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Andrew Round - Senior Director, CBRE

Maria Dunn - Head of Development Policy, Birmingham City Council

Selina Mason - Head of Masterplanning Europe, Lendlease

Chair: Mark McFadden – Chair of RTPI West Midlands Young Planners' Committee

Sponsored by Lendlease



11.00 am **Break**

11.15 am **Unlocking Regeneration Through Transport**

Connectivity between places and within places is central to unlocking opportunities presented by urban regeneration, linking people and businesses with new places to work, live and play. Transport infrastructure at all scales plays a fundamental role in realising the economic, social, and environmental benefits of regeneration. Improvements to national connectivity, such as approval of HS2 Phase One in 2017 has stimulated investment at major growth points in Birmingham city centre and Solihull. However, connectivity within our places is just as important; the expansion of West Midlands Metro is opening up opportunities across the region. The importance of walking and cycling for thriving places has equally been thrust onto the agenda in the face of climate change, air pollution and poor public health. This session will explore how transport infrastructure can enable urban regeneration and placemaking at all scales.

Tim Fawcett – Birmingham Cities Lead, Mott Macdonald

Sandeep Shingadia - Director of Strategic Partnerships and Integration, Transport for West Midlands

Mel Jones - Head of Transport Planning, Birmingham City Council

Chair: Bart Shirm – Member of RTPI West Midlands Young Planners' Committee

Sponsored by Mott MacDonald



12.15 pm **Break**



12.30 pm

Breakout Sessions

Delegates can choose one of the following sessions.

BREAKOUT 1

Green Infrastructure: from policy to practice

In this session, we explore the practical approaches to delivering Green Infrastructure in urban and rural environments. Parks and greenspaces offer a range of health, climate change and environmental benefits and it is a planner's role to help incorporate nature-based solutions into the design of our projects. Chaired by Frances Keenan, Glen Richardson and Simon Needle will discuss the re-greening of urban areas, amongst other green infrastructure initiatives and Mark Russell will provide an insight into how to deliver natural capital and biodiversity in practice.

Simon Needle - Strategic lead, Urban Forestry & Nature, Birmingham City Council

Glen Richardson - Associate Partner (Masterplanning), Carter Jonas

Mark Russell - Partner (Natural Capital), Carter Jonas

Chair: Frances Keenan – Member of RTPI West Midlands Young Planners' Committee

Sponsored by Carter Jonas

Carter Jonas

Simply better property advice

BREAKOUT 2

How to deliver a legacy through large-scale housebuilding?

Delivering large-scale residential development provides an exciting opportunity to build communities as well as build new homes. In response to the increasing emphasis on understanding, capturing and delivering social value through the development process this session explores the ways in which existing and new residents can be genuinely involved in the design, delivery and ongoing stewardship of new development in order to create an enduring place that is truly sustainable. Experience will be drawn from live examples, including the circa. 5,500 dwelling Birmingham Langley Sustainable Urban Extension.

Sarah Taylor - Head of Planning and Enabling - Central, Homes England

Michael Burrow - Planning Director, Savills

Chair: Jessica Graham – Member of RTPI West Midlands Young Planners' Committee



Sponsored by Savills



BREAKOUT 3

Counting Down to Biodiversity Net Gain

With November 2023 fast approaching and the requirement to secure a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain for new developments being a legal requirement under the Environment Act 2021 now being within touching distance, it's fair to say BNG has been a controversial "hot topic" for the development industry. The question is, are we geared up for mandatory BNG?

During this session, speakers will delve into anticipated challenges ahead for young planners grappling with the incoming changes, whilst focusing on the overarching, lasting legacy of species rich diverse habitats for future generations to enjoy in years to come.

Paige Bedward - Associate (Planning), Shoosmiths
Lloyd Collins- Principal Planner, Environment Bank
Matt Nixon – Legal Director, Shoosmiths

Sponsored by Shoosmiths

SHOOSMITHS

BREAKOUT 4

Planning for Logistics

Some 90% of the UK's population is located within a four-hour drive of the West Midlands, which is known as the 'golden triangle' for logistics. The structural shift to online retail and need for high quality logistics floorspace to support our manufacturing and services economy has driven the significant growth in industrial and logistics (I&L) development in recent years. The sector generates significant socio-economic benefits, creating high-quality jobs in the North and Midlands in particular. This session will explore the opportunities presents by I&L development and its unique locational and design requirements and provide an overview of the economic, social and environmental impacts of I&L uses. It will also unpack some of the challenges presented by a lack of land supply in the right places and potential plan-led solutions to help unlock its full potential.



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Richard Hickman - Head of Planning, St Modwen Logistics
Mark Powney - Economics Director, Savills

BREAKOUT 5

Planning for Renewables

Planning has a crucial role in facilitating the delivery renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure to hit the UK targets of net zero by 2050. At the core of the transition will be the large-scale deployment of energy schemes. This not only means the delivery of generating capacity, but also requires immediate consideration of the supporting infrastructure and skills required.

At a strategic and local level, planning will be crucial to identifying, developing, and approving suitable developments – acting as the catalyst for change.

Will Thomas - Principal Associate, Shoosmiths
Carly Vince - Senior Director, Quod

Sponsored by Quod



1.15 pm

Networking Lunch

2.00 pm

Study Tours

Delegates will have a choice of 6 tours on the following topics.

1. Perry Barr - A Lasting Legacy Study Tour

Perry Barr is the home of the Birmingham 2022 commonwealth Games, having hosted the Opening Ceremony, Athletics and closing Ceremony events at the Alexander Stadium. Over one year on from the Games, we will consider what role planning and stakeholder engagement has had, and will continue to have, to ensure the legacy of this now internationally recognised area. Join this study tour to explore key sites in Perry Barr with members of the team responsible for delivering the world-class legacy aspirations of this area.

Sponsored by Arup

ARUP



2. Built heritage and regeneration in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter

Home to over 700 jewellers and independent retailers, a thriving food and drink scene, it is considered to include the most extensive group of Victorian and 20th century buildings devoted to jewellery manufacture and small goods in Europe. The Jewellery Quarter is in the process of becoming an increasingly residential, mixed-use neighbourhood. This walking tour will explore how the area is seeking to retain and enhance its business ecosystem and historic character whilst welcoming new residents and uses.

3. Work/live/play by the water: leveraging Birmingham's canal network

Step into the domain of the Peaky Blinders and explore Birmingham's canals (more canals than Venice...); see first-hand how they have been used as assets to mobilise large-scale regeneration projects and create new leisure opportunities and habitats in the city centre. This walking tour will showcase how developers, public and third sectors have collaborated to create a vibrant blend of old and new along the canals, including vibrant modern restaurants, cafes, and bars as well as Port Loop, Birmingham's award-winning island community.

4. Paradise – Mixed Uses and New Public Realm in the Heart of Birmingham

Since grant of planning consent for the mixed-use regeneration of the former Central Library in 2013, the Paradise development is delivering a transformational mixed-use development and quality public realm in Birmingham's civic heart, adjacent to Grade I Town Hall and Grade II* Council House, City Museum and Art Gallery. This tour will provide a whistlestop overview of the site's history, current development milestones achieved and set out the future of the regeneration scheme. There will be opportunity to hear from Glenn Howells Architects as lead masterplanner and MEPC as lead developer of this £700m project.

Sponsored by Howells and Turley

Howells Turley

5. Culture-Led Regeneration in Digbeth Walking Tour

Digbeth is renowned for being the cultural heartbeat of Birmingham, having evolved in recent years as a key nightlife and cultural economy hub. What role does planning have in both supporting and enhancing this status? The past few years



has seen a number of major development proposals come forward in the area, which promise exciting, place-led proposals for mixed-use regeneration. This tour unpacks recent projects and provides an insight into the relationships between heritage, industry, nightlife, connectivity and more.

Sponsored by Lambert Smith Hampton

**Lambert
Smith
Hampton**

6. Placemaking and Regeneration in Coventry City Centre

Coventry City Council and its partners are leading on the regeneration of its city centre through developments including the Friargate commercial district, new mixed-use residential neighbourhood at City Centre South and recent restoration of its groundbreaking post-war retail precinct. This tour will explore the city has built on the momentum of its UK City of Culture 2021 status and using the city's heritage and culture to create a place that is unique, playful and one of a kind.

6.30 pm Gala Dinner

This year's Gala Dinner is taking place in the Council House banqueting suite. An evening of dinner, drinks and music will be hosted in this elegant Victorian venue in the heart of Birmingham city centre.

Sponsored by Lichfields and Waterman



Saturday 14TH October 2023

9.30 am Refreshments

10.05 am Conference Welcome Address



10.10 am Planning Law Update

Landmark Chambers will bring you up to speed with the most recent and impactful legal decisions and potential planning law reforms.

Harley Ronan - Junior Counsel, Landmark Chambers
Kimberley Ziya - Junior Counsel, Landmark Chambers

Sponsored by Landmark Chambers



11.10 am Breakout Sessions

Delegates can choose one of the following sessions.

BREAKOUT 1

Leveraging the B2022 Commonwealth Games for Health Outcomes in the Built Environment

This breakout session aims to explore the synergistic relationship between the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and the built environment, with a specific focus on delivering mental and physical health benefits. The session will delve into how the hosting of major sporting events can serve as catalysts for urban development, promoting healthier and more sustainable communities.

Richard Cocker – Trustee, Play UK

Maggie Grogan - Managing Director (West Midlands), Muse Developments

Dr Mary Orhewere - Assistant Director, Environmental Public Health, Health Protection & Place Public Health Division, Birmingham City Council

Bethan Stimpson - Former Head of Legacy at B2022 Commonwealth Games

Chair: Alex Oxley – Member of RTPI West Midlands Young Planners' Committee

Sponsored by Muse Developments



BREAKOUT 2



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Development Viability and Sustainability

In the context of build cost inflation and the competing demands of creating quality buildings and places, rising to the challenge of net zero construction and affordable housing delivery and other potential section 106 contributions, it is more important than ever to understand development economics. This session will provide an overview of development viability and its role in the planning balance and introduce the interplay between build costs, land values and deliverability.

Rob Csondor - Managing Director RCA Regeneration Limited
Sian Griffiths - Director, RCA Regeneration Limited

BREAKOUT 3

How to Get Hired: Young Planner Careers

Are you looking for your first planning role? Considering whether to change roles? Do you want APC advice from young planners that have recently passed? This breakout session will give you the chance to pick the brains of young planners and recruiters to give you the tips and tricks of interviews, career decisions and APC advice.

Tamsin Almeida – Planning Manager, Hayfield Homes
Tullula Farrell - Senior Consultant, Carrington West
Frances Keenan – Planning Manager, Spitfire Homes
Chair: Imogen Hopkin – Member of RTPI West Midlands Young Planners' Committee

Sponsored by Carrington West



BREAKOUT 4

Climania: Engaging young people in climate change solutions in the built environment

Have you ever struggled to engage with young people about planning issues? Climania is an innovative board game in which players interact with neighbourhood planning issues and climate change activism. It was co-developed by 13 young people from Balsall Heath in Birmingham and researchers at Birmingham City University. This session will include a presentation from the creators followed by an opportunity to play the game.

Claudia Carter - Professor in Environmental Governance and Planning, Birmingham City University
Simeon Shtebunae - Doctoral Researcher in Urban Planning, RTPI Young Planner of the Year 2022



12.00 pm **Networking Lunch**

12.50 pm **Closing Panel – Strategic Planning and Legacy**

Strategic planning is of vital importance with a deepening and intersecting housing and environmental crises yet is extremely challenging in a politicised locally led system, especially in the West Midlands conurbation. This panel session will take stock on the current state of strategic planning, consider its future trajectory, and explore examples of best practice from around the country.

Catriona Riddell - Director, Catriona Riddell and Associates

Sam Stafford - Planning Director at the Homes Builders Federation, Homes Builders' Federation

Sue Bridge - President, Royal Town Planning Institute

Chair: Charles Goode – Member of RTPI West Midlands Young Planners' Committee

1.55 pm **Closing remarks by RTPI President & Young Planners' Conference 2024 handover**

2.15 pm **Event close**