



RTPI Young Planners
Royal Town Planning Institute

Young Planners' Conference

13 -14 October 2023

.....
Birmingham
.....

Handbook



Welcome to the Young Planners' Conference 2023

On behalf of the RTPI West Midlands Young Planners' Committee, I am delighted to welcome you to Birmingham for your Young Planners' Conference 2023. Our bid to host the Conference was submitted just one week following Ozzy Osborne's declaration of "Birmingham forever!" at the Commonwealth Games closing ceremony. Some 1.5 billion viewers tuned into the Games during the two-week event, with our ever-evolving city taking centre stage.

Our theme of planning for legacy is the golden thread linking the sessions, recognising the role of the public and private sectors in working together to realise long-term transformative change, ensuring that development and infrastructure investment at all scales can realise optimal environmental, economic and social outcomes. The panel sessions and study tours will share insights from the West Midlands context, enabling you to reflect on how lessons can be learnt and applied in your context, featuring speakers from allied professions of architecture, engineering, law and economics.

The breakout sessions on both days will provide ample opportunity to take a deep dive into a wide range of topics including natural capital, housing and logistics development, renewable energy, viability, stakeholder engagement and planning for healthier communities.

Planning proactively for urban regeneration and infrastructure delivery has never been more crucial to the success of our towns and cities, as we navigate climate change and the shift towards net zero, the changing role of our high streets and business districts



and the long-standing need for delivering high quality homes and employment opportunities in the right places.

For those who are attending the gala dinner, you'll be joining us Peaky Blinders for an evening of dinner, drinks and live music at the Council House Banqueting Suite. Birmingham city centre offers something for everyone: canalside cocktails at Brindleyplace, student haunts on Broad Street, restaurants and bars in Chinatown and Gay Village or an eclectic evening in Digbeth. Our Committee will be available on the day to provide any recommendations.

There will be countless opportunities to network and socialise throughout the event, which will be hosting around 250 Young Planners from across the UK. This event would not be possible without generous support from our 25 conference sponsors, as well as the invaluable time of our panellists, breakout facilitators and study tour leads.

It has been a pleasure to work as part of the dedicated YPWM to organise this event, and I thank them for making this a rewarding experience. We are thankful to everyone at the RTPI, our sponsors and speakers, for giving their time and experience to the event and truly hope everyone enjoys this year's conference.

Please share your experience on social media using the hashtag **#YPConf2023** and search LinkedIn for the national and local Young Planners' groups.

With best wishes,

Mark McFadden MRTPI

Young Planners West Midlands Conference Chair



Who and what is Birmingham best known for?

More (miles) of canals than Venice

With some 35 miles of canal, Birmingham boasts a larger canal network than Venice. Historically used to move freight and fuel for the region's industries, Canal and River Trust, in collaboration with its partners, has sought to repurpose the region's canals as valuable walking and cycling routes. Much of Birmingham's canal network, centred on Gas Street Basin and Brindleyplace in the city centre (named after illustrious engineer James Brindley), is now home to wildlife, tourism and leisure activities.

Bulls and Birmingham

The bull is a prominent motif for Birmingham, whether the 'raging bull' from the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony (recently moved to New Street Station's concourse) or the Bullring shopping centre. One of the UK's largest retail and leisure centres, the Bullring is located at the historic retail core of the city. Markets have been held since King Henry II granted its legal charter in 1154.



Modern architecture

'Forward' has been the motto of the City of Birmingham since 1838, appropriately reflecting its post-war appetite for a range of modern architectural styles. Love it or loathe it, modernist buildings contribute to our city's skyline. Look out for Grade II listed Alpha Tower (still the second tallest office building in the city), the Rotunda on New Street or Library of Birmingham on Centenary Square, the largest public library in Europe.

Brum and the motor car

Birmingham and Coventry's post-war economic boom and rebuilt city centres were centred around the needs of the motor car, given the region's world-class car industry. Companies such as Jaguar Land Rover, Aston Martin and Rolls Royce continue to employ some 50,000 employees in the West Midlands, including manufacturing and over 60% of the UK's automotive R&D activities. Birmingham and Coventry have since made significant progress in reshaping their city centres by putting liveability and the pedestrian first and promoting more sustainable travel.



From custard and tea to creative industry

The creative industries contribute some £4bn annual to the sub-regional economy, with Digbeth ranked as one of the UK's largest clusters for media, cultural and creative industries. The Bird's Custard Factory is home to businesses, restaurants and bars, whilst Typhoo Wharf is set to become a new BBC headquarters and associated studios.

Centre of the UK's Jewellery Trade

The historic Jewellery Quarter is still home to over 40% of jewellery manufacture within the UK, whilst offering a wide range of offices which support independent businesses, as well providing some of the best eateries Birmingham has to offer.

All change please: Birmingham New Street

New Street Station is the busiest station in the UK outside of London, welcoming circa. 50 million passengers annually. The station was substantially redeveloped during the early 2010s, trebling the size of its concourse and delivering a new sunlit atrium with Grand Central shopping centre. The station is set for transformation over the coming years, to make optimal use to the now vacant John Lewis store. The changes seek to provide a significant amount of office space directly above the sustainable transport hub.

Hall of Memory

Opened in 1925, the Hall of Memory is a memorial to those who gave their lives in military action since the First World War. It is located in Centenary Square and next to Library of Birmingham, which hosts large events including the Christmas Market ice rink and big wheel, music and cultural events.

Mailbox and Gas Street Basin

Previously the location of a railway goods yard and Royal Mail's sorting office, the Mailbox is one of the largest mixed-use retail and leisure developments outside of London. Restaurants and cafés line the canal basin, leading to the historic Gas Street Basin.

Custard Factory

Once home to Bird's Custard, the Custard Factory includes a range of bars, restaurants, shops and offices across this historic warehouse complex in the heart of Digbeth.



First 'Redbrick' university

Growing from Mason Science College, University of Birmingham was the first of the civic universities to gain independent university status in 1900. 'Old Joe', fondly named after Joseph Chamberlain, is the world's tallest freestanding clock tower at 100 metres tall. Over 80,000 university students study across the city's five main universities; Aston, Birmingham City University, Newman, University College Birmingham and UoB.

Home of heavy metal

The industrial landscape of Birmingham and the adjacent Black Country is rumoured to have inspired the cultural phenomenon of heavy metal music in the 1960s. Black Sabbath played their first ever gig at The Crown on Station Street, to the rear of New Street station. BOM is planning to reopen the pub as a live music venue.

A superdiverse city

The 2021 Census revealed that Birmingham is one of the UK's first 'superdiverse' cities in the UK, where citizens from ethnic minorities make up more than half the population. Birmingham is home to people from more than 187 different nationalities, and has a long history of welcoming people from around the world.

Images - Wikimedia Commons

Getting around Birmingham:

Millennium Point is located on the eastern side of Birmingham city centre, a 10-15 minute walk from Moor Street/Snow Hill/New Street stations. The closest Metro stop is Bull Street. There is a variety of bars and restaurants around Colmore Row and New Street, particularly on Bennett's Hill and Temple Street. The majority of the city centre can be reached easily by foot, although Beryl operates e-scooter and cycle hire through the [West Midlands Cycle Hire app](#).

Young Planners' Conference sponsors

Huge thanks for today's conference sponsors for their support:

Headline sponsors

Carrington West is an award-winning recruitment company providing high caliber talent to the UK town planning industry. We recruit interim, temporary, and permanent professionals from entry to board level across multiple disciplines for private and public sector organisations. Our dedicated national town planning recruitment team service cross-sector clients such as local authorities, private SMEs, multi-discipline consultancies and developers across the UK. Within these companies we recruit professional town planning experts covering every area of town planning, including development management and consents, planning policy, planning enforcement, regeneration, conservation, and urban design.

www.carringtonwest.com



CBRE's Planning team comprises of town planners, economists, regeneration experts, development surveyors and environmental specialists. This blend of skills, together with our ability to draw on the expertise of our other real estate expertise across CBRE, enables us to take a 'holistic' approach to the advice we give, to identify opportunities that others may miss, and understand how to successfully unlock complex sites of various scales through all stages of the planning process, acting for public and private sectors.

www.cbre.co.uk



Landmark Chambers is ranked by the legal directories as the UK's top barristers set for planning law. Our planning group is 68-strong, led by 25 silks.

Working throughout the UK, Europe and internationally, our work covers all sectors of planning, including housing, retail, commercial, leisure, transport, energy, major infrastructure, regeneration, minerals, and waste. Our expertise in public, property, environmental and EU law makes us uniquely placed to advise on the many planning matters that overlap in these areas.

www.landmarkchambers.co.uk



Young Planners' Conference sponsors

Plenary sponsors

Lendlease is a globally integrated real estate group with operations in Australia, Asia, Europe and the United States. We create places where communities thrive. Headquartered in Sydney, Australia, Lendlease has approximately 7,800 employees globally. Our operating segments are Investments, Development and Construction. The combination of these gives us a sustainable competitive advantage in delivering world class developments. Lendlease are Birmingham City Council's appointed Joint Venture partner to deliver the Smithfield Birmingham regeneration project.

www.lendlease.com



Mott MacDonald is a multidisciplinary consultancy driven by improving social outcomes in all we do. Our town planning team works to respond to the needs of our clients to create inclusive and sustainable places and infrastructure that work in harmony with the environment. We manage the preparation, submission, and negotiation of planning applications across the UK, covering master planning, urban design, and environmental services, across all aspects including landscape architecture, flood risk and heritage.

www.mottmac.com



Breakout session sponsors

Carter Jonas is a multi-disciplinary property partnership, intent on helping clients realise their goals and aspirations by providing 'simply better property advice'. Throughout our Planning and Development team, we focus on providing comprehensive, commercially astute, and results-driven advice, and strive to add value across all service areas. We offer shrewd, forward-thinking solutions delivered by professionals with a passion for property and the expertise and experience to back it up.

www.carterjonas.co.uk



Quod is a specialist, independent and employee-owned consultancy, advising on all aspects of planning, development economics, socio-economics and environmental planning based in London and Leeds.

Our focus on delivering the right outcomes has earned us the privilege of working with a wide range of brilliant clients on some of the most exciting projects in the country. This has helped us to recruit and retain some of the very best people in the industry.

www.quod.com



Savills is the largest planning consultancy in the UK, with over 350 members operating from 23 offices across the principal regional markets. We deliver planning solutions that maximise the value of our clients' property assets, taking into account the planning policy context, technical and environmental factors, local community considerations and overall sustainability. We provide a range of specialist services to ensure the highest standard of advice in all aspects of the planning process.

www.savills.co.uk



Breakout session sponsors

With one of the largest multi-disciplinary real estate and planning practices in the UK located across 13 different offices, Shoosmiths has the dual benefit of both being immersed in our regions and able to bring the depth of expertise required to advise on some of the most significant and innovative schemes happening in UK real estate. Our lawyers understand the nuances of our local markets and, importantly, are then able to use this knowledge to inform the delivery of developments in all regions for a roster of regional, national and international clients. Recognised as a top 5 team in the Planning Law Survey 2021 and winner of Legal Team of the Year at Property Week's RESI Awards 2020 and 2021, our team works with commercial and residential developers, investors, retail and leisure operators, social housing bodies, major corporate occupiers, banks and other funders and a range of public sector bodies.

www.shoosmiths.com



Nationwide placemaker, Muse, has almost 40 years of experience creating mixed-use communities across the UK.

We have a track record of leading complex, area-wide regeneration projects, and the experience to accelerate new neighbourhoods, with the emphasis on delivery, quality, and sustainability. We're working with partners in 40 places across the UK, with close to 2,500 new homes and 800,000 sq ft of workspace currently on site and a gross development value of over £1.3bn.

museplaces.com



Exhibition sponsors

We're facilitators of major development and infrastructure projects. Our services are provided by our highly skilled teams to navigate even the most complex of projects.

- Highways, Environmental & Transition
- Cost & Commercial
- Civil Engineering
- Development Management
- Structural Engineering
- Mechanical & Electrical Engineering



We'll always strive to deliver the Brookbanks' difference, innovating and driving every project with the aim of maximising value creation and minimising development costs for our clients' benefit.

www.brookbanks.com

The Town Planning team at Penguin Recruitment has had an established presence in the market since 2008 and is widely accepted as one of the UK's most experienced and successful recruiters in the sector. We cover all areas of planning and the related disciplines such as; heritage, urban design and economics. We place 75-100 Graduate / Assistant Planners a year so if you are a 'young planner' looking for a new role, call Penguin Recruitment.

www.penguinrecruitment.co.uk



With a heritage dating back to 1830, Fisher German LLP is a national firm of chartered surveyors and specialist property consultants offering a wide range of professional services in all aspects of land and property management. We understand property and make it our priority to understand our clients. Our expert teams help businesses prosper by building long term relationships, listening, and delivering exceptional service, every time. Our people make us who we are today.

www.fishergerman.co.uk



Study tour sponsors

Arup is an independent firm of designers, planners, engineers, consultants, and technical specialists offering a broad range of professional services. Founded in 1946, Arup now has more than 18,000 people working in 94 offices in 34 countries and our projects have taken us to more than 130 countries. We provide the engineering and related consultancy services necessary to every stage of the project, from inception to completion and after. These are available to clients singly or in combination, to suit the particular circumstance of the job.

www.arup.com



Howells is an award-winning design studio, driven by the ambition to enrich lives and positively transform places through its work. The practice constantly explores how to create long-term sustainable communities and a healthier future for our cities. Howells has built a reputation for its collaborative approach, underpinned by clear, strategic and intelligent thinking. It has delivered innovative, high-quality buildings across all sectors, and its masterplans are transforming large parts of the UK's biggest cities.

www.howells.uk



Acting out of our London and regional offices, our Planning, Regeneration + Infrastructure team can help identify, appraise, unlock and maximise the development potential and investment, environmental and social value of complex urban and rural sites and buildings. Our professional team comprises over 100 specialist town planners and surveyors, development consultants, urban designers & masterplanners, town centre regeneration experts, economists, compulsory purchase / land assembly advisers, transport & infrastructure specialists, and dedicated public sector consultants.

www.lsh.co.uk



Turley is a full service planning and development consultancy.

Turley's Planning expertise is complemented by Business Cases and Funding, Design, Economics, EIA, Expert Witness, Heritage, Townscape and Landscape, Strategic Communications and Sustainability services. All services can be provided together or individually.

Turley helps clients achieve good growth in all jurisdictions in the UK and Ireland from their locations in major cities and growth areas.

Turley brings deep thinking, smart strategy and expert delivery.

www.turley.co.uk



Event sponsors

CarneySweeney is a fully independent town planning consultancy that is proud of its ability to deliver dynamic and tailored commercial planning advice. We are trusted advisors who are passionate about what we do and the projects we work on, operating from Birmingham, Cardiff, Exeter and London.
www.carneysweeney.co.uk



Delta Planning is a client focused independent town planning consultancy delivering a highly commercial and personalised service, combined with integrity, care and professionalism.



Delta Planning operates across a of range of sectors with a particular track record in the Industrial/Logistics, Residential and Education markets. Delta has an impressive track record of managing complex major planning applications
www.deltaplanning.co.uk

tor&co is a planning, design and environmental consultancy with a human focus. People are at the centre of every project and through collaboration with clients, other professionals and communities, tor&co helps deliver challenging and inspiring projects across every sector, helping to make a long-lasting economic, environmental and social legacy by arriving at better outcomes for people and the planet.
www.torandco.com



Lanyard sponsor

Pegasus Group is a leading development consultancy offering full development lifecycle expertise bringing innovative thinking to create beautiful places which enhance the built and natural environment.



No matter the project, no matter the challenge you can rely on us to find solutions, get things done, and to make sure that you are always moving towards success – whatever your goal. We make sure that everything we do for you is Expertly Done.
www.pegasusgroup.co.uk



Gala Dinner sponsors

Waterman Group is a multidisciplinary consultancy providing sustainable solutions to meet the planning, engineering design and project delivery needs of the property, infrastructure, environment, and energy markets.

Founded in 1952, the company has since grown into a leading engineering and environmental consultancy with offices throughout the UK, Australia, and Ireland. Waterman works with government agencies, local authorities, government-regulated industries, and private sector clients to provide innovative, sustainable, and economic solutions across a wide spectrum of business activities.



The company has extensive experience in property and buildings, environmental consultancy, power and energy, roads, highways and rail infrastructure, urban and regional planning.

Award winning teams provide professional consultancy services throughout the complete life cycle of the asset starting from initial surveys and concept planning, through to design, delivery, project management, supervision, and on-going maintenance.

www.watermangroup.com

Lichfields has been at the forefront of planning and development consultancy since the company was founded in 1962. It is the UK's longest-established independent planning and development consultancy. In May 2023 the Company won 'Consultancy Practice of the Year' at the industry-leading Property Week Resi Awards; and in 2022 it won the 'Consultancy of the Year' award at the inaugural UKREiiF Awards. Lichfields' operates as an Employee Benefit Trust from nine offices across the UK. It offers a comprehensive range of planning and development services. Its clients include developers, landowners and operators as well as local authorities and government bodies.



www.lichfields.uk

Welcome reception drinks sponsor

RCA Regeneration Limited are a planning and development consultancy based in Worcestershire and Norfolk, operating nationwide. We offer planning and development support including planning applications and appeals, development viability and appraisals, strategic planning, S106 and affordable housing, neighbourhood planning, Red Book valuations, market assessments and grant funding. We work for major housebuilders and developers, registered providers, local authorities, parish and town councils, government agencies, charities and landowners and provide a highly responsive service.



www.rcaregeneration.co.uk

Wine sponsor

Hayfield was formed in 2015 when its founders set out to deliver more meaningful and higher calibre homes than the volume housebuilders. The outstanding quality of Hayfield's eco-focused developments are increasing standards industry-wide and exceeding the hopes and aspirations of those who choose to own a Hayfield home. Having defined the art of homemaking, the company has been honoured to receive the highest accolade in the homebuilding industry – Housebuilder of the Year – at the 2021 WhatHouse? Awards.



www.hayfieldhomes.co.uk

Conference programme

Friday 13 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.

Maria Dunn - Head of Development Policy, Birmingham City Council
Selina Mason - Head of Masterplanning Europe, Lendlease
Andrew Round - Senior Director, CBRE
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
Mel Jones – Head of Transport Planning, Birmingham City Council
Sandeep Shingadia – Director of Strategic Partnerships and Integration, Transport for West Midlands
Chair: Bart Shirm – Member of RTPI West Midlands Young Planners' Committee

Sponsored by Mott MacDonald



Conference programme

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.

Michael Burrows - Planning Director, Savills

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

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

Sponsored by Savills

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

Conference programme

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.

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**



Conference programme

2.15 pm Study Tours

Delegates will have a choice of six 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 losing 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.

Conference programme

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 14 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

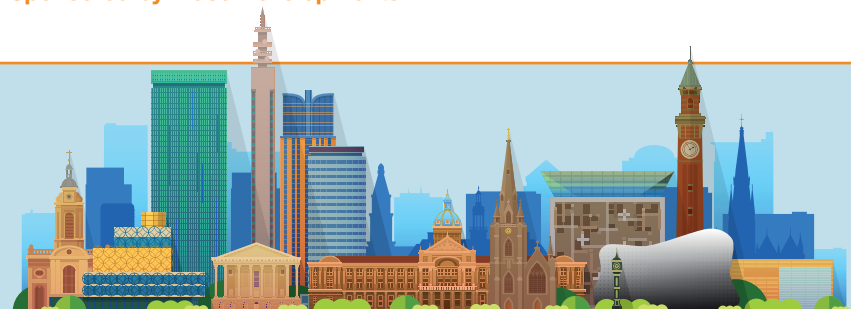
Dr Mary Orhewere - Assistant Director, Environmental Public Health, Health Protection & Place Public Health Division, Birmingham City Council

Bethan Stimpson - Former Head of Legacy at B2022 Commonwealth Games

Alex Oxley - Member of RTPi West Midlands Young Planners' Committee

Sponsored by Muse Developments

MUSE



Conference programme

BREAKOUT 2

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.

Tasmin 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 Shtebunaeu - Doctoral Researcher in Urban Planning, RTPI Young Planner of the Year 2022

12.00 pm **Networking lunch**

12.45 pm **Young Planner Soapbox**

12.55 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.

Sue Bridge - President, Royal Town Planning Institute

Catriona Riddell - Director, Catriona Riddell and Associates

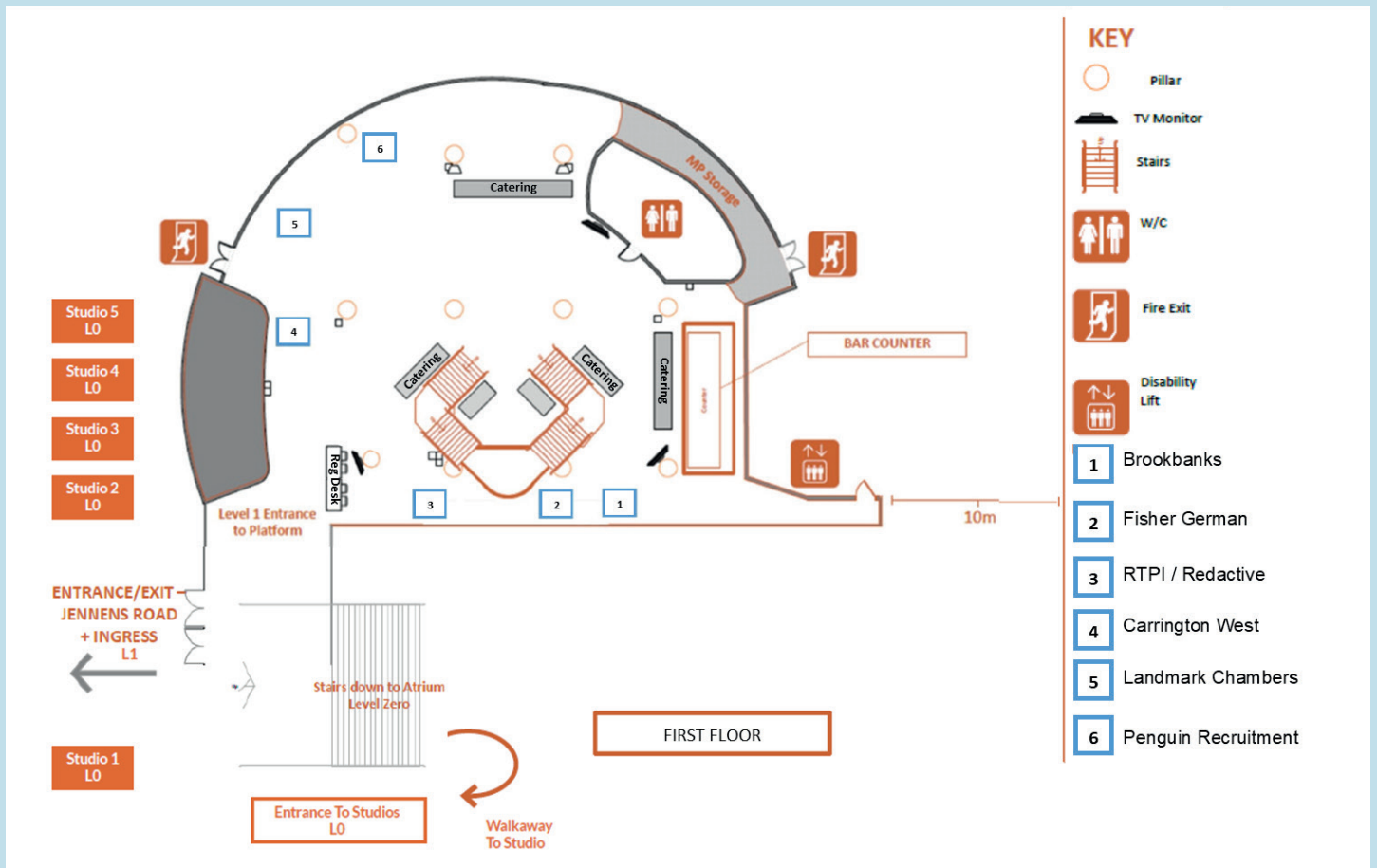
Sam Stafford - Planning Director, Homes Builders' Federation

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

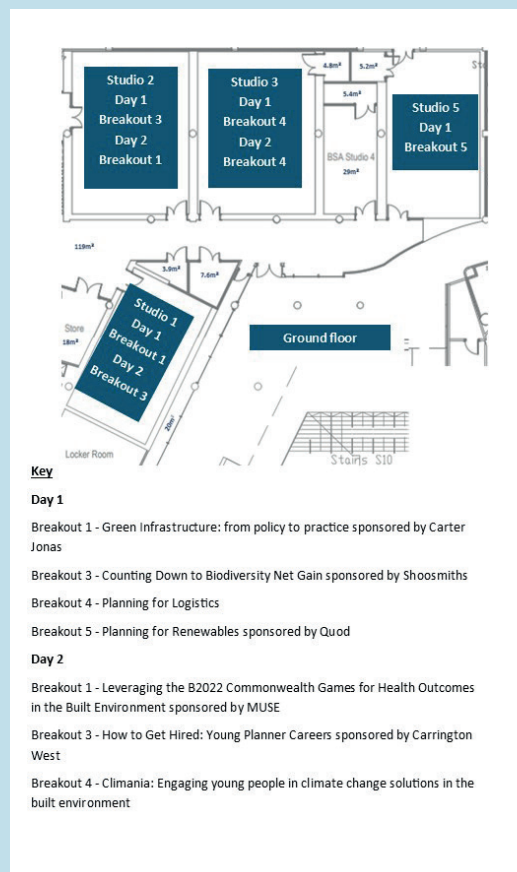
1.55 pm **Closing remarks by RTPI President Sue Bridge and the Young Planners' Conference 2024 handover**

2.15 pm **Event close**

Exhibitors' floor plan



Breakout session floor plan



Policy and research useful resources



Biodiversity net gain

We have published evidence that planners are struggling to prepare for new Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements expected to begin next year. Members can help to inform our engagement with Government and other public bodies on BNG by answering our BNG Transition, Implementation and Monitoring Survey on [the following link](#).



Planning reform in England

Visit [this page](#) where we explain how we expect the government's proposed planning reforms to impact planning policy and practice.



The role of transport in regeneration

This research explores how different places can achieve an 80% reduction in surface transport emissions by 2030, as part of a pathway to net zero by 2050. [Read the report here](#).



Enabling healthy placemaking

This research explores local, national and international planning practices enabling the creation and delivery of healthy places. [Read the report here](#).



Renewable energy

This practice advice note demonstrates how proactive planning can help deliver renewable energy projects on the ground, outlining key policy initiatives and highlighting good practice case studies throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. [Read the report here](#).



Planning for a smart energy future

This research considers the 'smart energy' in relation to national planning policy and guidance and the gap between what happens on the ground and the opportunities offered by smart energy. [Access the report here](#).



Stewardship/Legacy

With a housing affordability crisis in the UK and pressure to build up to 300,000 homes a year, there is a real risk that the built legacy of this generation will be a country littered with soulless housing estates. With dwindling natural resources, and new carbon reduction targets to address climate change, there has never been a more urgent moment to think very carefully about what we are building so that we don't burden future generations with short-sighted solutions. Getting the built fabric right is a way to unlock the natural, social and financial capital of an area. Getting it wrong will produce a negative impact on people's lives for generations to come. This report aimed at landowners shows the steps to producing popular development. [Read the report here](#).



RTPI Young Planners
Royal Town Planning Institute

**Thanks for attending this
conference. Don't forget
to share your content with
#YPCConf2023**

**We hope to see you
next year.**

Registered charity number: 262865.
Scottish registered charity number: SC 037841