



RTPI West Midlands
Royal Town Planning Institute

Annual Review 2017



Chair's Foreword

Craig Jordan, RTPI West Midlands Chair

A year of success

Well another year passes and it's time to review what happened in 2017...in the last 12 months planning has continually been in the news, even when it has not seemed apparent. This is a good sign as it shows that planning and planners are an integral part of the world that we live in. Planning helps build communities and the associated infrastructure, it supports sustainable economic growth and it assists in protecting our most valuable assets.

Planning in the West Midlands has been a microcosm of the wider national picture with the well- publicised debates about meeting housing and employment needs, preserving the green belt, capitalising on the benefits of HS2 and responding to the challenges which Brexit is likely to bring to our industrial sectors.

RTPI WM has engaged with those debates and even helped facilitate them. Via the knowledge and views of its membership, we have sought to identify

Regional Management Board

- Craig Jordan (Chair)
- Maria Dunn (Senior Vice Chair)
- Sandy Taylor (Junior Vice Chair)
- Ben Simm (Immediate Past Chair)
- Michael Vout (Hon. Secretary)
- Mark Walton (Hon. Treasurer)
- Sue Manns (General Assembly representative)

where and how planning fits in to the bigger picture and what as an Institute we can do to support people, business and local communities. It has also focused on the needs of its members and those who may at a future date enter the profession recognising that learning and development is key to any individual, organisation and society as a whole.

Looking forward

I hope you enjoy reading this review of the activities carried out in the West Midlands in 2017. It was a pleasure to be the Chair, working with a vibrant and healthy membership including a supporting RMB and RAC. I look forward to supporting my successor Maria Dunn, RMB/RAC colleagues and the wider regional membership in 2018 and seeing RTPI WM continue to deliver positive benefits for all.

Regional Activities Committee

- John Acres
- Neville Ball
- Michael Barker
- Hannah Bevins
- David Brammer
- Mike Beazley
- Claire Bridges
- James Carpenter
- Ray Colbourne
- Sandra Ford
- Richard Hammersley
- Stephen Hill
- Robert Keith
- Mike Jones
- Julie Morgan
- Danielle Nevin
- Hector Pearson
- Dan Roberts
- Charles Robinson
- Paresh Shingadia
- Bryan Smith

“Via the knowledge and views of its membership, we have sought to identify where and how planning fits in to the bigger picture and what as an Institute we can do to support people, business and local communities.”



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'C. H. Jordan'.

Championing the Planning profession

President's Visit to the Region

At the visit in March, Stephen Wilkinson was provided with an extensive tour of both the Black Country and Stoke on Trent. It provided the opportunity to learn about the history and diversity of both areas, the significant social and economic challenges they have faced and the considerable work and leadership of planners, Members and private sector partners to address them through a variety of housing, commercial and environmental regeneration schemes. The visit saw successful projects including large scale infrastructure investment such as the Midland Metro, a major housing development on the former St Margaret's hospital site, a development of mixed social/affordable housing in Walsall, Waters Keep, and the Wedgwood Centre in Stoke, the site of the former Wedgwood Ceramics and Pottery factory which is being transformed into a mixed use development and business visitor centre.

RTPI West Midlands Awards

Regional Award for Planning Excellence
The Birmingham Resilience Project.

Young Planner of the Year
James Carpenter

Chair's Award
Walsall Housing Group and Keepmoat for Waters Keep, Walsall

Young Planners in the West Midlands

The RTPI President offered young planners opportunity to discuss their priorities and future aspirations for the profession during his visit in March. We also strengthened links with other young professionals in the property sector, hosting two joint events with colleagues at Women in Property.

Former YP Chair Luke Coffey, became RTPI Young Planner of the Year 2017. This accolade was thoroughly deserved as his enthusiasm for the profession makes him a great role model.

Members learnt new legal lessons at a seminar on 'Heritage and the NPPF', and new skills at a seminar on 'Social Media in Planning'. We also helped to inspire future members by giving careers advice to students at local universities.

Young Planners in the West Midlands

"This accolade was thoroughly deserved as Luke Coffey's enthusiasm for the profession makes him a great role model for young planners."

**Rosie Cotterill, RTPI
West Midlands Young
Planners Chair**



RTPI President Stephen Wilkinson standing next to a statue of Josiah Wedgwood at the Wedgwood Centre, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent.



Winners of the 2017 Regional Award for Planning Excellence being presented with their Award at the RTPI West Midlands annual Ball.

Supporting and Growing Membership

CPD Events

We had a full and varied programme of CPD Seminars in 2017, sponsored by No5 Chambers, with reports from most of them available to read in issues of [Tripwire](#). All 11 events were well attended with many being fully booked. Topics included Design; Tourism; Neighbourhood Planning; Health; Flood Protection; and our ever popular Planning Law Updates and Preparing for Public Inquiries.

[2018 CPD Programme](#)

Social Events

Our social events in 2017 included the annual 5-a-side Football Tournament on 13 July at Star City, the Autumn Reception hosted by Chair Craig Jordan in Lichfield, and a bigger than ever Ball & Awards Ceremony on 7 July at the Burlington in Birmingham, attended by nearly 250 delegates. A good time was had by all! [View the photos](#)

Planning Summit

This year's Summit on 30 November at Birmingham Rep was on 'Embracing Future Influences – the changing world of planning'. Over 100 delegates heard from a great line-up of speakers and appreciated the opportunity the event afforded to think more broadly than in their day-to-day jobs about the technological, demographic and economic trends which are affecting and transforming planning of the future.

[Read the report](#)

Great Regional Debate

At this year's multi-disciplinary event for built environment professionals (architects, surveyors, planners, engineers) mayoral candidates for the West Midlands presented their ideas on what they perceived to be the main issues to be addressed under the government's devolved financial controls.

“It was worth this year's membership subscription on its own.”

“An excellent day – very thought provoking!”

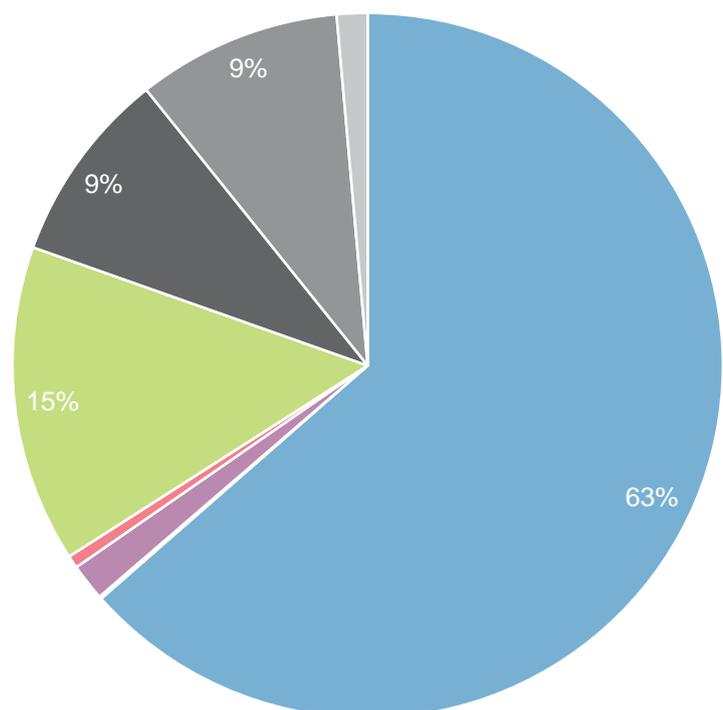
Delegates attending the 2017 RTPI WM Planning Summit.

Regional Membership Figures 2017

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

Futures Project

The importance of strategic planning is once again starting to be recognised. The West Midlands region has a wealth of knowledge and experience, which this project aims to capture, focusing on the importance and role of strategic planning. It provides an opportunity for innovative collaboration between the profession, the world of practice and the two Birmingham planning schools.

The outcomes of stage 1 will be available to all RTPI members on the website. It looked at strategic planning in the region from the 1950s through to today, highlighting the main issues and challenges and the relative success of the various approaches.

Stage 2 will look at strategic planning today, the challenges and issues that it faces, using the lessons of the past.

Place Makers

We are working with Birmingham City University to produce a 'planning game', which is to be called *Place Makers*. This fits with both national curriculum

terminology and the active nature of planning. It is an outreach project to provide an educational resource in schools, focused on the 14-17 age range. The developmental and testing stage is now complete and 2018 will see the production phase. Students from the University demonstrated aspects of the game to delegates at our Planning Summit in November.

International

The [Commonwealth Association of Planners](#) (CAP) is working with the Prince's Foundation for Building Community and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum on a project to develop planning approaches for use in areas experiencing rapid urbanisation and where resources are limited. A two-day conference was held in February which concluded with a round table meeting and afternoon tea at Clarence House discussing the Rapid Urbanisation Project with The Prince of Wales, Clive Harridge from our Region attended.

The RTPI West Midlands International Group will meet in 2018.

“This project provides an opportunity for innovative collaboration between the profession, the world of practice and the two Birmingham planning schools.”

Sue Manns, FRTPi



Students from Birmingham City University demonstrating the Place Makers game at the 2017 RTPI West Midlands Planning Summit.



Afternoon tea at Clarence House: Clive Harridge & Christine Platt discussing Rapid Urbanisation in the Commonwealth with Prince Charles.

Empowering Communities

Supporting Planning Aid

Following the University of Reading Report in 2015-16, it has been a quiet year for community planning in the West Midlands. There have been changes at the national level with a new Planning Aid Manager and new ways of service delivery, and volunteer members have continued to help with neighbourhood plans and casework.

Volunteer for Planning Aid

We are reforming a new regional Task Group in 2018 to support Planning Aid England going into the future.

If you would like to be involved in Planning Aid in the West Midlands please contact: westmidlands@rtpi.org.uk

Neighbourhood Planning Seminar

At our Neighbourhood Planning Seminar at Birmingham University on 20 July, speakers were asked "what would you change?". Responses included that neighbourhood planning should be

strengthened to give communities more confidence in the planning process. It offers a unique and exciting challenge to communities to shape and influence growth in a positive way. If Local Planning Authorities can meaningfully and genuinely collaborate with neighbourhood planning groups and developers, managing expectations and maintaining relationships in exchange for participation and local insight, we will continue to see effective and positive planning take place.

Influence

2017 saw the election of [John Acres](#) as the RTPI's President for 2018. A longstanding member of the West Midlands Regional Committee, we look forward to supporting John in this influential role. 2017 also saw the election of [Sue Manns](#) as a Fellow of the Institute, the highest membership class. Sue is a Regional Director of Pegasus Group and sits on the Region's Management Board as our representative at the General Assembly.

"Being elected a Fellow is a very special and very treasured award; it provides me with a greater platform from which to engage and excite people beyond the profession in good planning and what it can do for the whole of society."



RTPI West Midlands Committee member, John Acres, is the RTPI President for 2018.



RTPI Regional Management Board member Sue Manns became a Fellow of the Institute in 2018.

Achieving Good Governance

Regional Governance

The Regional Management Board (RMB) is responsible for the general running of the region, including financial planning and the preparation, monitoring and delivery of the Regional Business Plan. The Regional Activities Committee (RAC) supports and advises the RMB in organising and delivering regional events and activities.

If you would like to get involved in regional governance of the RTPI, please contact us at westmidlands@rtpi.org.uk.

We are administered on a day-to-day basis by the Regional Coordinator. In 2017 we said goodbye to Sue Griffith-Jones, who retired after many years' service with the Institute, and welcomed Trish Cookson as our new Coordinator.

Business Plan and Budget

The Region again performed extremely strongly in 2017 from a budget perspective. Following the generation of

large surpluses in the period since 2012, we were able to fund new and enhanced services for members together with a number of new projects. These included:

- A varied and well supported local CPD programme;
- A Planning Summit to discuss current planning issues in the Region;
- A 'Planning Futures' project: a joint Birmingham City University and University of Birmingham research project on Strategic Planning;
- An Autumn Reception;
- Continued support for the Annual Football tournament;
- Contribution to the RTPI Future Planners Bursary Scheme.

The Business Plan for 2018 seeks to bring forward a balanced budget with any 'exceptional' expenditure items funded from our existing surplus of £40,780.

[RTPI West Midlands website](#)

"The Region again performed extremely strongly in 2017... we were able to fund new and enhanced services for members."

Mark Walton, RTPI West Midlands Honorary Treasurer

RTPI West Midlands Budget Summary

		2017 Budget £	2017 Actual £	2018 Budget £
Income £	Grant from Central Funds	21,680	21,680	N/A
	CPD Events	28,500	38,600	
	Other Income	15,600	16,850	
	Total Income	65,780	77,130	45,100
Expenditure £	CPD Events	19,000	9,700	38,335
	Other Activities	31,900	27,460	
	Regional Governance	40,520	40,720	6,765
	Total Expenditure	91,420	77,880	45,100
	Surplus/Deficit	-25,630	-750	0



RTPI

Royal Town Planning Institute



The RTPI is a charity registered in England (262865) and Scotland (SC037841).
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