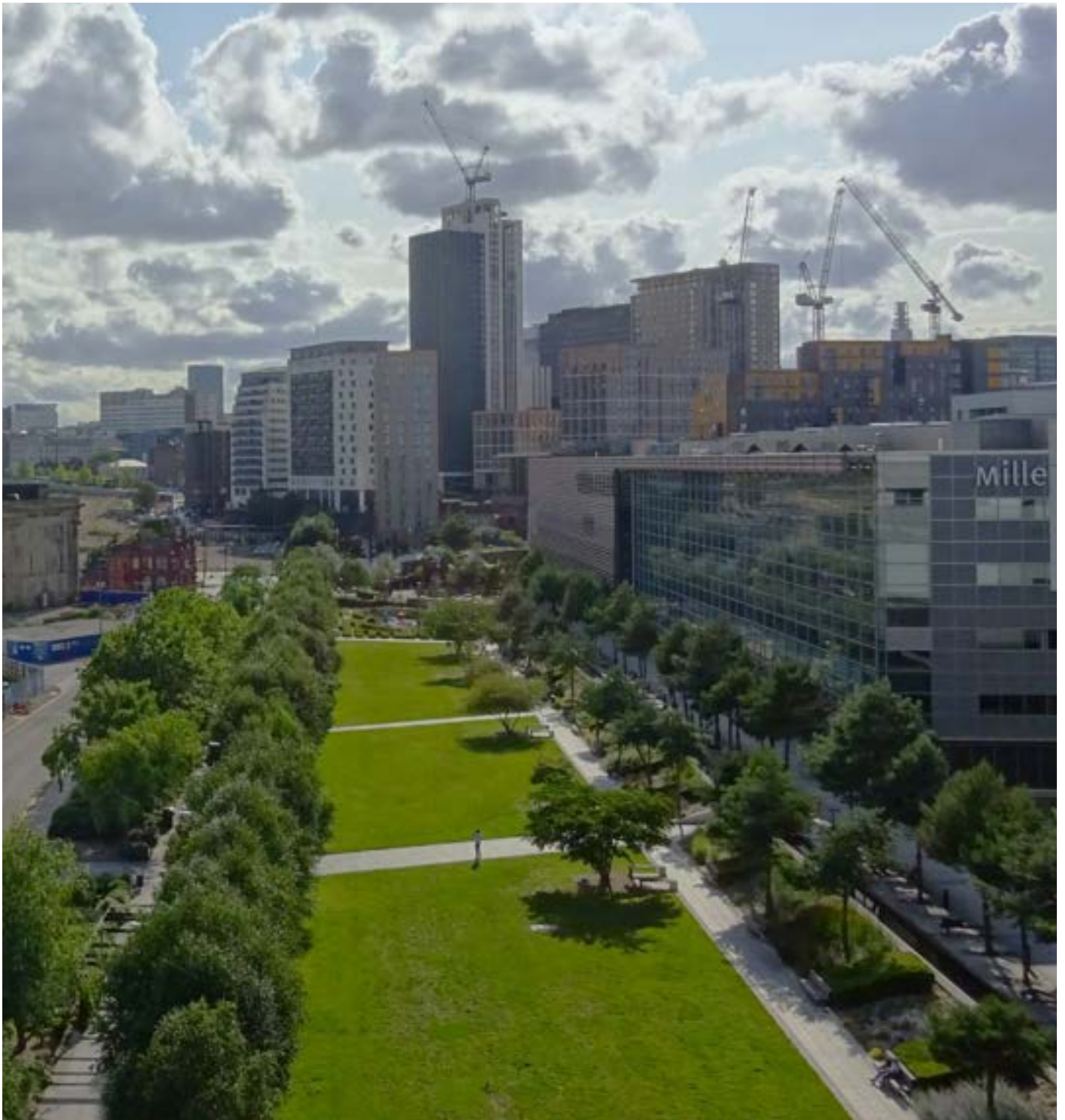


MAGAZINE FOR THE RTPI WEST MIDLANDS

TRIPWIRE





Cover image: Millennium Point and the HS2 Curzon Street site from Birmingham City University library.
Credit: The Editor, with thanks to the staff at BCU library

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Tripwire Editorial

We have put together a packed edition for you for this summer 2023 issue of Tripwire. This issue is very much all about the Young Planners: the story of their origins in the West Midlands, reflections on the impact the group has had on planners in their later practice and the work the group is doing today to deliver the next national Young Planners Conference, due to be hosted again in the second city of Birmingham for the first time since 2011.

Back then, hot topics included a planning context still impacted by the 2007-8 financial crisis and a fresh consultation on the coalition government's new National Planning Policy Framework. So much has changed in the development of the city in the twelve years since, with the agenda for this year very much focussed on the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games legacy and regeneration. This edition recognises the longevity and the value of the Young Planners as a regional institution, reflecting backwards and looking ahead.

The RTPI defines Young Planners as “any member of the RTPI with up to 10 years' experience post-qualification”. Qualification refers to a “combined, spatial or specialist” planning course accredited by the RTPI. In this way, Young Planners are a variety of people from a variety of disciplines, ranging from students to

those on the licentiate pathway or from more corporate backgrounds. Thirteen regional Young Planner groups across England and Wales promote planning to people during all stages of their careers, foster networking and sociability, arrange events and conferences, as well as play an active role as RTPI volunteers in their region. Our home-grown West Midlands Region has a long history of doing exactly this, explained in our guest article from one of its founders, Gary Woodward. There is a great legacy and lots of great reasons to get involved in the Young Planners, and we're hoping the stories and events detailed in this issue inspire some of you to [consider signing up yourselves](#).

This issue also sees the return of the Tripwire Interviews feature for this edition, with Birmingham City Council returning to discuss the Our Future City: Central Birmingham Framework 2040, what it aims to do and how residents and stakeholders can get involved. Alongside this are all the usual updates from the RTPI courtesy of our excellent new regional Coordinator, Heidi Smith.

Enjoy this edition in between the summer rains and - if you have your own stories of being a Young Planner - we would love to showcase these in our Autumn edition, where we'll also reflect on the undoubted successes of this year's national Young Planners Conference 2023 as hosted by our very own Region.



James Hoskinson
*Tripwire Editor and
RTPI West Midlands
Regional Activities
Committee Member*



The Council House and former NatWest Tower in the host city of Birmingham at the time of the last Young Planners conference in 2011 (above).

Credit: @RTPIYPs via Twitter

The Council House and 103 Colmore Row in Birmingham more than a decade later in 2022 (left).

Credit: Damien Walmsley via Flickr, Public License (cropped)

CHAIR'S COMMENT

We're All in This Together

Well, here we are, more than halfway through the year and my time as West Midlands RTPi Chair is just flying by, although not so much when trying to think of a witty title for this article. Sorry, folks, I thought about “Smells like Team Spirit” but it sounded vaguely icky so you’re stuck with a High School Musical reference. To be fair this turns out to be quite fitting given the context of working together, and I do have a bit of a soft spot for that movie but, shhh, don’t tell anyone.

Over the last few months as Chair I have been liaising with a huge range of people on lots of different issues, it’s been exciting, challenging and has involved a lot of collaborative working.

So, for this edition of Tripwire, as the sleuths amongst you may have gathered, I am thinking about teams. No, not the “you’re on mute”, “is that a legacy hand?” “you’ve frozen again, no, no we’ve lost you Bernard” version. Although...why DOES Teams always freeze when you look like you are in a state of utter shock or despair? Or maybe that’s just the way it always is in my sphere of policy planning. That’s just how we look all the time.

No - today I want to think about teams and what it means to be part of one and how in this world of increased remote and hybrid working we can still foster an excellent team spirit and keep people motivated and (dare I say) even happy in their jobs?

Out of curiosity, and in the interests of thorough, robust and evidenced research I quickly resorted to Google to find a suitable definition of “team” in a way which might apply to town planning. Brace yourselves!

Wiki: “A team is a group of individuals (human or non-human) working together to achieve their goal”. Hmm. Quite like that non-human bit, I think we have all had experiences where we suspect that might be applicable but maybe we need to move on from those.

Cambridge dictionary: “to work together in order to achieve a shared aim, rather than trying to achieve things just for yourself or working against others”. That one is hot off the press, May 2023, remember, you saw it here first!

So, painstaking research done, I want to have a think about what it feels like to be a member of a good team. What does it mean for you personally? How might your opinion differ from that of your colleague? What kind of work do you do, how do you feel you work most effectively? What motivates you? What do you find especially challenging or difficult? How does team work vary from one project to another? How does the culture of a workplace have an impact?

For me, being in an effectively functioning team is about a shared sense of purpose, of belonging, a clear understanding of the role you are playing to achieve an objective. All very sensible – and a bit mechanical. Being a member of a team is also about feeling supported, giving support, having a sense of ownership and pride in your own contribution but also relating to the project or objective. Building trust, not undermining others. Empathy. Being honest and constructive, sharing your views without fear of recrimination. Most importantly, in my mind, it is also about enjoying being part of your team and getting satisfaction from the job you do.

There is much controversy about how to achieve all this now the traditional world of office work has changed. The debate is raging. By “raging”, I mean it occasionally pops up on LinkedIn or sometimes makes headlines when certain people in certain powerful positions order their workforce to “get back to work”, the implication being that they are all lounging around watching Bargain Hunt and eating Doritos if they are not physically present in an office.

So, should we all be in the office all the time? Is remote working the best thing since sliced bread (was sliced bread ever a “best thing”?).



Brewwood, South Staffordshire

*Credit: Sludge G via Flickr,
Public License*

Is hybrid working some kind of utopian solution? In true policy planner style my view is this (deep breath): it's a grey area, it all depends.

In relation to the “office is best” argument, this is great for learning, having those all-important face to face conversations, learning by “osmosis”, collaborating around an actual paper plan (sometimes even with felt pens, how exciting!), debating, scribbling ideas down and enjoying being with colleagues. A good team environment is invigorating, inspiring, sociable.

But here’s my “it all depends” bit. Not everyone likes being with people all the time. Some people prefer quiet time, to focus, to concentrate, or because they find being in social situations hard going but have valuable skills where they find they are more productive away from an office.

I am sure, also, that many of you will have at times worked in offices where the dynamic is not so engaging, or where team spirit waxes and wanes from day to day. Colleagues are not always “ever present” in an office, rushing between meetings or trying to find time and space to get a deadline met. Sometimes even with an open-door policy the door needs to be shut.



It is also important to bear in mind personal circumstances. Team members may be struggling to balance the demands of a daily commute into an office with caring responsibilities, or may not be able to afford daily travel costs, or may not have access to a car (a real issue where offices are in rural or semi-rural areas and public transport is limited or non-existent). These people may be talented, skilled and passionate planners who just cannot make life balance out when other circumstances are factored into the mix.

Conversely, teams which rarely or never go into the office (or indeed any kind of shared space where in person collaboration can be achieved) present a different set of challenges to those who are mainly office based and again this “all depends”. Online communication has its limits; conversations are switched on and off, not everyone has good connectivity, its hard to “read” people properly, emails and messages can be distracting and it can be hard to know where the working day ends and personal life begins. Not great for personal wellbeing, I would argue. Furthermore, while 100% remote working may suit the circumstances of some individuals the chances are it will leave others – especially those just starting out in planning careers – feeling isolated, unsupported and not feeling like they really belong to a team at all. Some people may find it difficult to work remotely, for example those living in a crowded home or a bedsit. Again, we don’t want to be losing talented planners this way.

So is hybrid working the answer? All together now, you know where I am going here – it all depends. Not much use if you spend an hour travelling to find that everyone else is working at home that day, or if you are all in the office but sitting at desks or in booths all day in Teams calls with other people. Hybrid working can provide a good balance, but it requires coordination and team collaboration like never before to ensure that “team days” are just that, the priority is the team and having that regular face to face interaction is absolutely key.

So – what is the overall answer? In my view, it is about a supportive workplace culture, strong leadership and astute, active management, certainly not the application of a static “one size fits all” approach. Workplaces and projects are ever changing things.

Good managers need to be constantly flexible, proactive and responsive:

- They need to have in mind the overall objectives of the team's work but be creative and flexible in the way that this is delivered.
- They need to know the individuals in the team, what makes people tick, how to get their very best work out of them and ensure that they understand that they are supported and valued in a way that is unique to them.
- They need to see the person as a whole, not just someone who gets the task delivered. Managers need to be constantly responsive to changing dynamics in the team, new colleagues, changed personal circumstances, new priorities.
- They need to be alert to it all and adapt their approach accordingly. However, managers can only be free to do this in an organisational culture which is also genuinely supportive of its workforce – not just the words it uses in saying how much it values its people but the actions it takes to actually prove this.

The outcome? Good performance, loyal, motivated staff, and an excellent reputation.

Of course, this applies to planning teams everywhere. However, I am especially conscious of how hard changing working practices have hit the public sector with the ever-present challenges of having to deliver so much with so little resource. Yet there is much managers can still do, if they have supportive and creative leaders in their organisations who give their service heads and team leaders the scope and flexibility to deliver services in an effective way which keeps staff motivated and valued, contributing not just to excellent service delivery but also genuinely supporting the wellbeing of the individuals that make up the planning team, and particular those who are new to the profession and who are on such a steep learning curve.

I have been thinking hard about this issue for a long time. This is why, in my role of West Midlands RTPI Chair for 2023, I chose to present the Chairs award at this year's West Midlands awards ceremony to a Local Authority planning team who is doing just that, the team at South Staffordshire Council. They not only highlighted their range of work experience and training programmes, but showed energy, passion, positivity, pride and a hugely supportive team spirit, as well as a keen understanding of how to bring out the best in each and every individual in that team. There is much we can all learn from their approach, and I applaud them.

Finally, it is also important to recognise that people can be part of a great team away from the day job. Our West Midlands RTPI volunteers do just that, working together with our Regional Co-ordinator to deliver a huge range of projects, programmes and events both in person and online, and I would like to thank everyone involved. I particularly want to recognise the importance of the work done by our West Midlands Young Planners, who provide such a welcoming work and social network for those in the early stages of their careers and who this year are also working flat out to deliver the Young Planners Conference. This is teamwork at its very best, thank you to you all.



—
Clare Eggington MRTPI

*RTPI West Midlands Regional Activities
 Committee & Regional Management
 Board Chair*

YPC Founder Contribution

The West Midlands Young Planners Committee Origin Story

Another midsummer day passes, and diaries start to fill for September... time seems to get faster-and-faster, birthdays come around quicker, and one's age suddenly comes into focus. Scariest of all is the recent realisation that most of my team was born *after* I started university.

How different things were when I started in the 1990s as a young planner. The analogue office world was still on the cusp of becoming digital - who remembers plan cabinets, typing pools, memos and triplicates printed of every piece of correspondence for various paper files placed in miles-upon-miles of dusty metal cabinets? The world was dealing with high interest rates, an economic downturn, a shifting political headwind and wider social changes – some things never change.

In the Birmingham and Midland Institute on Margaret Street in the city centre of Birmingham however, a small revolution was brewing in the RTPi West Midlands Branch back then. I was a student member of the successful West Midlands Panel, overseeing the best Planning Aid Service in the country under Sheena Terrace's management, including a varied CPD programme and an active European Panel, strengthening learning and knowledge exchange with our continental neighbours.

The Lady in a Field

For me and other student members however, the RTPi seemed stuck in the past – at best the 1970s -which had yet to become cool again. The Institute had an odd logo of a lady sitting in a field holding shields, which didn't really inspire my generation of planners who'd been influenced by seeing ambitious New Towns and council estates built out, as well as the shiny towers of Canary Wharf and massive out-of-town shopping cathedrals replacing the warehouses and factories of the previous century.

The RTPi welcomed student planners but didn't seem to do anything for them, or to encourage them. I decided to do something about it, and proposed that the West Midlands Branch should have its own "Young Planners Group". I made a case for a budget to be made available for possible events, trips – and a "Most Promising First Year Planning Student Award" (the forerunner to "Young Planner of the Year"). I was nervous pitching the idea to the panel, but they welcomed it with enthusiasm – and gave the go ahead.



—
Lady Lex - the original logo of the RTPI.

The lady holds the disciplines of 'Cartography/Surveying' in her right hand, 'Architecture' in her left and 'The Law' on her lap

I chaired the group for the first couple of years while Phil Watts (now in the South-West region) was the secretary/treasurer, so diligent in the role in fact that he has been through papers stored in his loft and recently

We arranged some socials, a quiz, and most memorably (probably for all the wrong reasons) a trip to I think the first national RTPI Young Planners Conference in Glasgow – yes, other “Young Planners” groups had begun popping up across the country.

provided me with the minutes of a Young Planners meeting from February 1998! Julie Morgan (now in Worcester) was also a key member and took the group on after I left. Other members at this time were from the main panel and “UCE” (as the poly was known by then). There was also Peter Storrie, Maurice Ingram, Russell Hinton, Clive Harridge, Andy James, Rosie Prichard, Sheena Terrace and Paul Harris, the Branch Secretary (a great help to us) – I give thanks to them all.

We arranged some socials, a quiz, and most memorably (probably for all the wrong reasons) a trip to I think the first national RTPI Young Planners Conference in Glasgow – yes, other “Young Planners” groups had begun popping up across the country. I remember attending events at the RTPI’s old Portland Place headquarters and playing an early part in seeing the institute modernise and evolve over the years that followed. I recall the now RTPI Chief Executive, Victoria Hills, being a passionate advocate for modernising the RTPI.

Radical and Scathing

My reminiscences and tributes to those young planners (and allies) of the time, leads me to make a small confession... In the minutes of the February meeting of 1998, we proposed a new award, the “Concrete Block Award” to be given annually for the “Worst Planning Achievement”, along the lines of “Worst New Building, Local Plan, Development Scheme, Unitary Development Plan” etc. (because only students are in a position to be radical and scathing!). Phil Watts set to work on creating the award (pictured) – he never lets me forget the sweat, tears, and blood (literally...) that went into making what I think Tripwire readers will agree is a fine-looking trophy. However, I had not been a student for a few years by this point, and I’d not long started my new job at Birmingham City Council *(continued overleaf)*

The West Midlands Young Planners Committee Origin Story (continued)

So, when a building in the city won the award, let's just say I wasn't feeling so radical and scathing when it came to physically awarding it!

So, 25 years late, with the award dusted off from my garage – and to make Phil happy – the Concrete Block Award 1998 goes to... the Focus Foyer building, near St Chad's Cathedral.

With hindsight, I'm sure my director at the time, Les Sparkes, would have accepted the award within the spirit of fun and passion that the Young Planners had for their profession in coming up with the idea in the first place.

Young Planners Then and Now

Over the years it's been great to see young people come into the profession, and with more passion and engagement than ever. With this in mind, I sign off with 2 asks:

Firstly, for those ex-young planners (award winners, Young Planners Group members or members in general) to please share your memories and thoughts, not only of planning life "back in the day", but your experiences since and hopes for the future in your remaining careers (as we've still some time to go, with any luck!)

Finally, to today's Young Planners – what could the RTPi do for you and your generation, and more rhetorically, how could you get more involved in the work of the RTPi?



—
Gary Woodward

*City Centre Development Planning
Manager, Birmingham City Council*

You can submit responses to this article or other contributions to future Tripwire editions at tripwirewm@gmail.com



'The Original Concrete Block Award from 1998



The Focus Foyer building at St Chads (now Midland Foyer)



YPC Contribution

Planning for Legacy

The RTPI Young Planners Conference 2023 in Birmingham

We are extremely excited to be hosting the Young Planners Conference this year in Birmingham. The last time we hosted the Conference was in 2011, and a great deal has changed since then. The Conference will be held on the 13-14th October, at Millennium Point. The conference theme of “Planning for Legacy - Regeneration and Place” will explore the critical role of planning in securing sustainable development in the context of public and private sector investment before and after major events, such as the 2022 Commonwealth Games, hosted by Birmingham, which saw significant investment into the city and visitors from around the world.

The golden thread for our speaker panels, breakout sessions and study tours, focuses on:

- **The role of transport infrastructure and planning in unlocking urban regeneration and economic development projects**
- **The impact of large-scale cultural and sporting events in rebranding places, changing perceptions and supporting social cohesion**
- **The role of public-private partnerships in realising sustainable development**

The conference will focus on the lessons learned from the West Midlands context. However, it is important to note that Young Planners will have the opportunity to gain valuable insights that are applicable to their respective contexts:

- **Holistic regeneration:** the Government’s focus on addressing socioeconomic inequalities between regions and within places requires a joined-up mindset and breadth of skills in terms of understanding how local economies work, how local assets can be mobilised to attract inward investment, foster social wellbeing and how to join up with other disciplines, like economic development, sustainability, the environment, skills and public health.
- **Mobility and sustainability:** whether it’s dealing with a new high-speed railway, road scheme or local active travel measures, Young Planners need to understand how to consider mobility at the local, sub-regional and national levels and how foresight can realise new, sustainable opportunities.

Continued overleaf ...



RTPi Summer Ball 2022

Credit: Dan Knott Event Photography

- **Visioning, strategic planning and mobilising stakeholders:** Young Planners need to understand how politics, technical planning, stakeholder engagement and public-private investment can be brought together to mobilise resources to plan for a more sustainable future.

We have secured the support of 40+ speakers, who will be involved in 14 breakout sessions, panels and six study tours. The event is supported by 23 different sponsors, without whom it would not be possible.

Following this programme, the Gala Dinner will be held in at Birmingham Town Hall in the heart of the City Centre, and may pay homage to the Peaky Blinders... More detail on this to follow. Due to popular demand, the Gala Dinner has now sold out, though a small number of Conference tickets remain available.

[Follow this link](#) to book your conference ticket now, and contact national.events@rtpi.org.uk to join the Gala Dinner waiting list. We look forward to welcoming Young Planners from across the region and the wider country into our city for what promises to be a uniquely exciting and informative event!



—
Mark McFadden
RTPI West Midlands
Young Planners
Conference Chair



—
Polly Mathews
RTPI West Midlands
Young Planners
Committee Co-Chair

You can find more about the the [RTPI West Midlands Young Planners Committee](#) online, including how to get involved.

RTPI's Regional Management Board

QUOTES

We asked current members of the RTPI's Regional Management Board for their experiences as or with Young Planners and what involvement they have had with the group. The quotes below detail what they had to share about this impactful stage of many early planning careers.

"I was involved in the Young Planners from 2003-2007. I was chair from 2004 onwards, eventually stepping down and moving to Honorary Treasurer of the West Midlands RTPI. For me it assisted with my professional development. Being chair provided me with the opportunity to engage with fellow young planners, as well as senior officers within the profession. It also helped develop a number of skills, such as collaborative working, networking, and leadership."

—
An RMB Member

““

I didn't even know the young planners existed when I was in my early career stage. If I was starting out now I would definitely join to get to know people, get experience and a social life! Having opportunities to get out and meet other new planners is so important and increasingly difficult, to work together on shared voluntary activities and understand the differences and similarities between their work helps to sustain and grow a resilient profession."

—
An RMB Member

““

I was involved in young planners between 2007 and 2015. I contributed to the organisation of many events including the national Young Planners Conference which we hosted in Birmingham in 2011. It gave me the opportunity to learn from a wide range of people involved in different sectors of the planning profession, to learn transferable skills, and to make a wide range of connections, some of whom have become good friends."



—
Maria Dunn
RTPI West Midlands Regional Activities Committee Member



—
Clare Eggington
RTPI West Midlands Regional Activities Committee & Regional Management Board Chair

RTPi's Regional Management Board QUOTES



I joined the Young Planners in late 2022. I am one of the CPD Leads. For me CPD is an extremely important area, being a planning academic doing teaching and research that is strongly related to practice. I enjoy delivering and organising CPD sessions for the group, such as on the Green Belt. There are some really interesting and innovative Young Planner events and I particularly enjoy the socials - they are a great way to network and meet planners from across the region.

I think that it is important for the Young Planners to have input from a research and teaching perspective. I have a wide professional network from my teaching and research which I can draw upon in my CPD sessions. For me, as the younger generation of planners, being part of the Young Planners Committee is extremely important.

It is great that we have the conference in Birmingham this year and it is a great privilege being part of the organisation of this."



—
Charles Goode
RTPi West Midlands Young Planners Committee & Regional Activities Committee Member

RTPI West Midlands Events – In-person CPD Programme

Local Authorities Planners on the Front Line

Date: To be confirmed

Venue: City Centre, Birmingham

As part of our commitment to supporting Local Planning Authorities the RTPi West Midlands is developing skills-based training at a significantly reduced fee for members working in the public sector. This first of these sessions has passed, but look out for an additional two sessions later in the year.

BOOK NOW

RTPI Heritage and Planning

Date: 12th September 2023 / 9.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: No5 Chambers - Birmingham

Come and hear from a range of professionals involved in the sector to understand the role, implications and application of heritage in planning in what promises to be an interesting and engaging event.

BOOK NOW

RTPI West Midlands Autumn Planning Law Update

Date: 3rd October 2023 / 9.00am - 2.00pm

Venue: DLA Piper, Birmingham City Centre

Our regular fixture for an update on new legislation, policy and case law, as well as looking forward to anticipated changes.

BOOK NOW

The Our Future City Plan: Draft Central Birmingham Framework 2040

This issue sees the return of Tripwire Interviews where we welcome back Ian MacLeod at Birmingham City Council to talk about the launch of the Draft Central Birmingham Framework 2040, the next stage in the Our Future City Plan which we featured in our Winter 2021 edition.

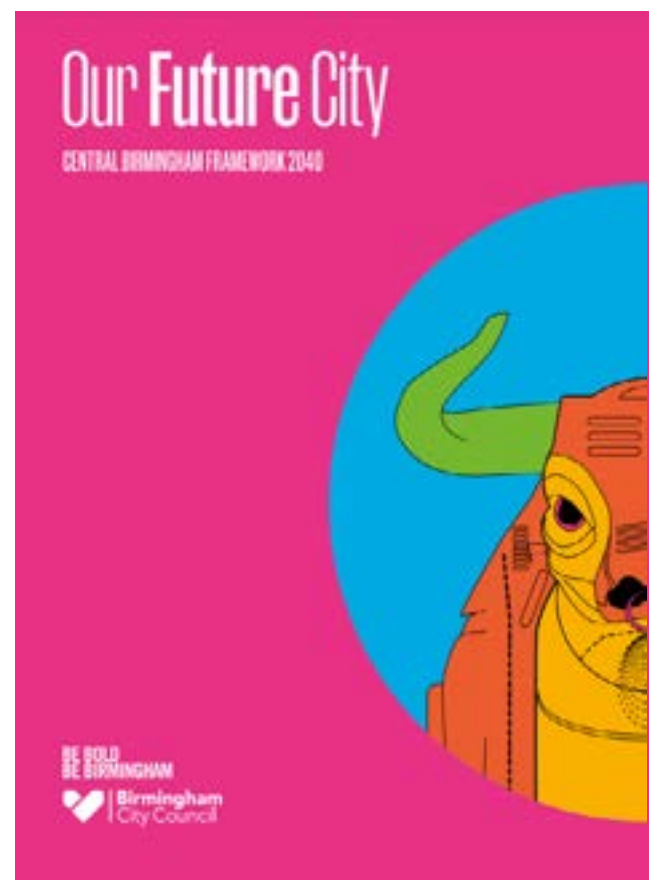
Background

What is the Central Birmingham Framework (CBF) and how does it relate to the Our Future City Plan (OFCP) (2021)?

The Framework responds to the many ideas that came out of the public conversation on the OFCP in 2021 and ever since, which can be seen in the Bold Proposals put forward for each Central Area in the Framework. It defines the key targets needed to achieve the vision and the priorities for each intervention area.

Who authorised the plan and who produced it?

The Draft plan was approved by cabinet in early 2023 following consultation on the original OFCP in 2021 and commissioning of Arcadis to produce delivery plans to inform



the next stage of the framework. The plan was produced by the city council's City Centre Development Planning team with contribution from across the council's many departments dedicated to improving the planning strategy, built environment, major development opportunities and transport in our city, as well as input from a range of external partners. Partnership is key to the formation and delivery of the Framework.

Plan Summary

What are the challenges the CBF aims to address?

The Framework seeks to address the challenges of high unemployment, poor life expectancy and high rates of relative poverty by identifying a range of locations to support new jobs and ensure the benefits of development are spread outward to create a cleaner, greener and healthier city.

Continued from page 17

The numbers and affordability of new homes is also addressed - with a staggering 7,000 new homes needing completion every year for the next 20 years to meet demand. The framework identifies areas for regeneration, increased density, and more efficient use of space across central Birmingham.

What are the Framework's purpose, aims and objectives?

Our vision is for a city that is more inclusive, creative, connected and resilient, with a doubling of green spaces and the length of active travel routes while increasing housing density and the number of new jobs. The document proposes six strategic themes. These have been developed as headings over a set of ambitions and interventions that will ultimately deliver the vision of The Framework up until 2040. They include the following:

- **City of Growth for All**
- **City of Nature**
- **City of Centres and Neighbourhoods**
- **City of Connections**
- **City of Knowledge and Innovation**
- **City of Layers and Distinctiveness**

These themes are detailed in pages 31-33 of The Framework, while each section in the framework includes the icon of each 'City of' theme that the proposals and interventions relate to and deliver. These themes are followed by bold interventions across the central area that include Housing Action Areas, Growth Zones, Greenways, as well as major development sites.

By who and how will the Framework be used?

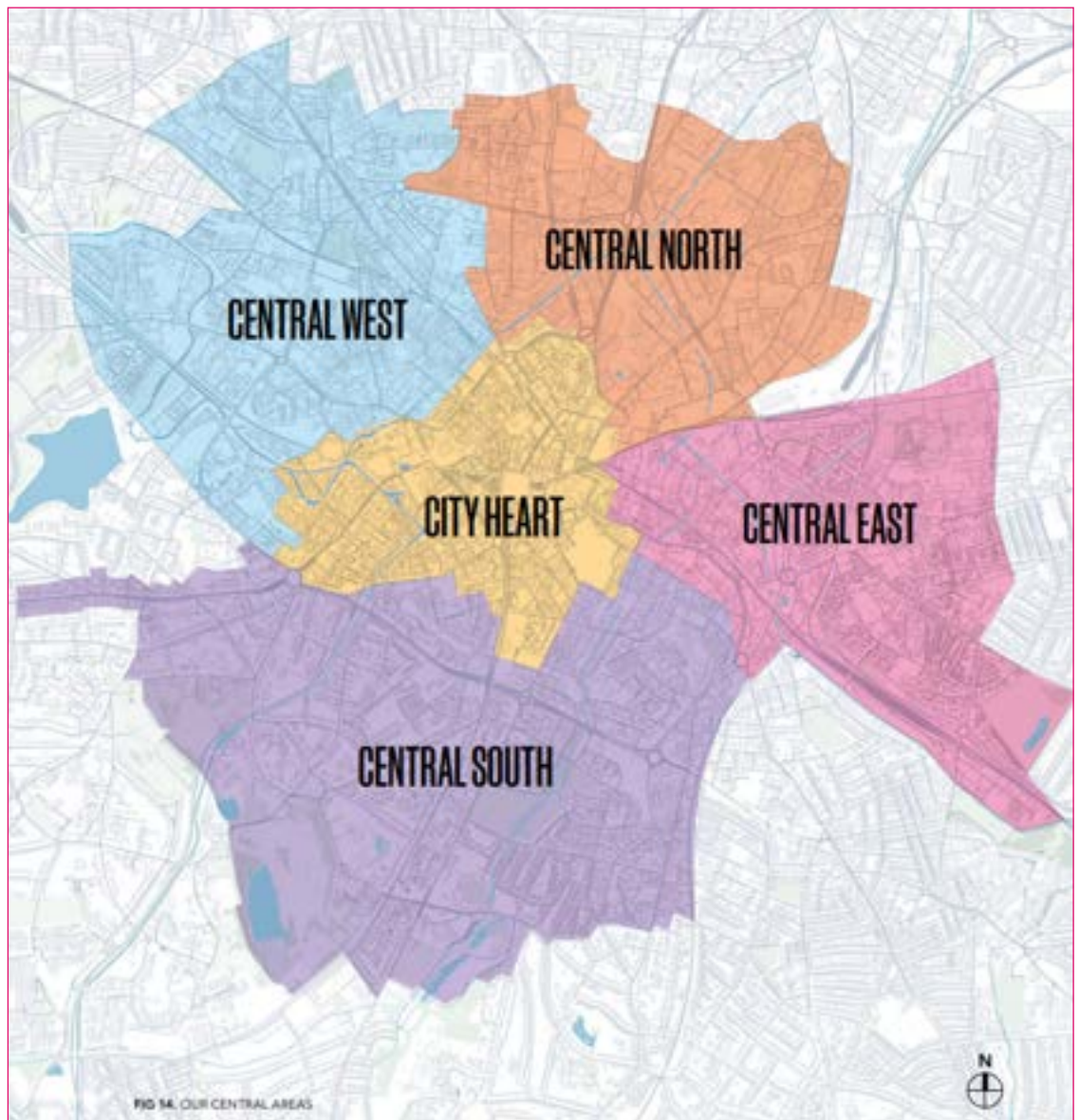
The Central Birmingham Framework 2040 is a non-statutory planning document which will set a vision for the future of Birmingham city centre and inner-city suburbs beyond the ring road. The Birmingham Local Plan, which will cover the whole of Birmingham, is the statutory planning document for the city and is being developed in parallel. The vision and aspirations set out in the Central Birmingham Framework will therefore inform preparation of the Birmingham Local Plan and will be reflected in the policies and land uses proposed in its future consultation stages and its final version.

The Framework very much sets a bold ambition for the city, paving the way for future investment and partnership working to ensure that the aspirations within it are deliverable and impactful. It sets out what our key priorities are and what is possible, responding to the city-wide challenges of the day including economic conditions, housing pressures, employment needs, cultural growth and of course, climate change adaption and resilience.

“**The plan is ambitious - but crucially - deliverable.**”



—
Deborah Cadman
 Chief Executive,
 Birmingham City Council



Map of the five Central Areas in the Draft CBF:2040

Consultation

How has the public been consulted on the Draft Framework?

Initially announced at the UK Retail Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiiff) on Wednesday 17th May to a well-attended welcome by stakeholders wherein the proud legacy of the Commonwealth Games and increasing attention and investment in the second city was felt. The Framework is now out for local consultation, having launched locally at an event at Highbury Hall on Thursday 25th May, with the consultation running until Thursday 17th August 2023 and having featured a whole host of in-person and online events for residents and stakeholder groups, which were **listed on our council website** (where you can also find out more about the Framework).

Last time for the OFCP we were restricted to online consultation, which was nonetheless very effective. This time around we were able to offer a host of both online events and in-person events stalls and drop-ins, in-line with our pre-COVID consultation approaches. This was targeted at the communities in the areas within or near to the plan boundary, namely the City Heart, Central North, Central East, Central South and Central West.

The Our Future City Plan: Draft Central Birmingham Framework 2040

How do you plan to engage young people and other often overlooked voices in the consultation?

We have encouraged all schools and colleges in the Framework's Central Area to ask pupils and students from ages 15-18 to complete the online questionnaire and feed it into their summer term teaching, as well as offering bespoke sessions with representative groups such as Youth Boards or Councils. At in-person events we have had 'Ozzy the Bull' colouring activities as well as building blocks to engage younger minds in the mascot of the city and the basics of the built environment.

We scheduled a number of consultation stalls and drop-ins alongside existing events or venues run by charities, religious groups, private businesses, medical centres, supermarkets, public libraries and online event, at a range of times throughout the day and evening. Many of these events captured voices from minority groups and those with mixed abilities who might not normally have the opportunity to engage with the council's planning consultation process.

We also welcome expressions of Interest from groups who can work in partnership with us to further engage members of their community.

Residents and stakeholders can have their say in the shaping of our city and the Framework document until Thursday 17th August by [accessing and completing our online questionnaire here](#).



—
Ian MacLeod
*Director of Planning,
Transport and Sustainability at
Birmingham City Council*



RTPI – Code of Conduct

IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR MEMBERS

Since **1 February**, all RTPI members will be required to comply with a new Code of Professional Conduct. The new code sets out updated and amended ethical standards for all members of the Institute and applies to all categories of members worldwide.

**Click here
for further
information >>>**

Wellbeing Support

As a member of RTPI, you now have free access to well-being support. Simply download the RTPI Plus app for:

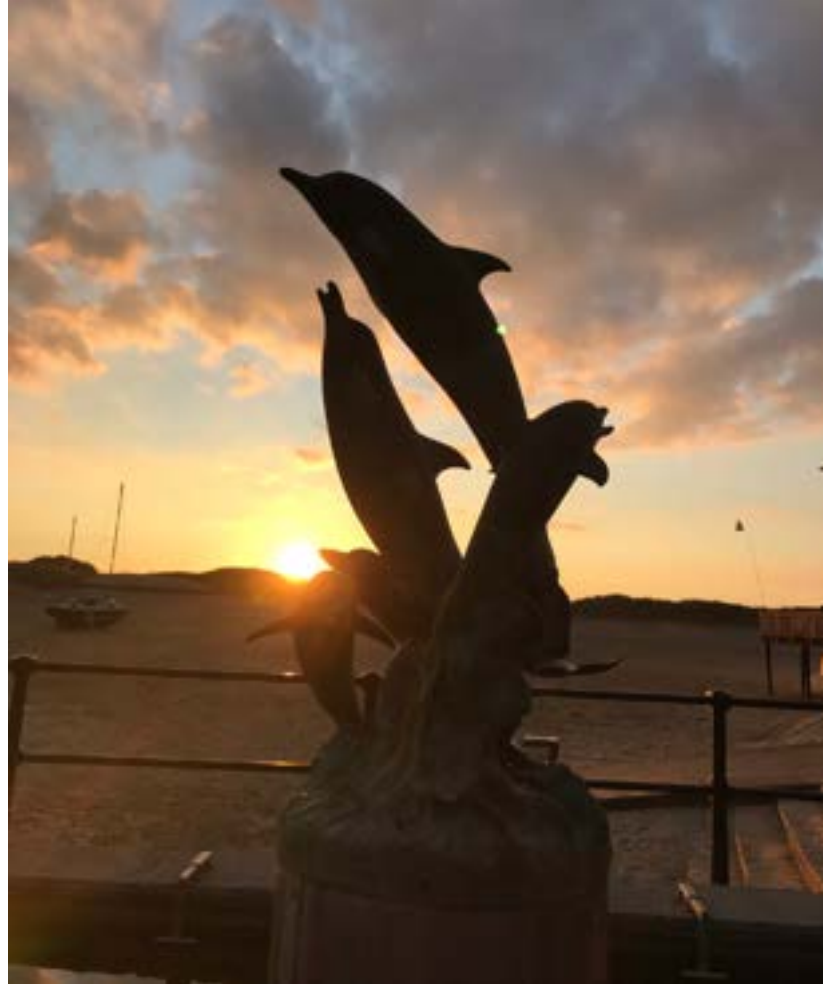
- ✓ Online health checks
- ✓ Free 24/7, 365 confidential helpline
- ✓ Access wellbeing resources such as webinars, podcasts, articles, videos and guides
- ✓ 4-week self-help programmes



health assured

Complete EAP, health & wellbeing support

- ✓ Stress & anxiety
- ✓ Family issues
- ✓ Financial wellbeing
- ✓ Childcare support
- ✓ Relationship advice
- ✓ Bereavement



RTPI Elections 2023

Still Time to Nominate – RTPI Elections 2023

There's still time to nominate yourself for various volunteer roles in our **RTPI Elections 2023**, including:

- Trustee for the English Regions and
- Young Planner Trustee

The deadline to apply is
Monday 24 July at 5pm:

Apply here today >>>

Apply for an Early Career Research Grant from the RTPI

The research grant aims to support early career planners to gain experience leading projects that directly impact planning policy or practice.

Four grants of up to **£10,000** each are available to fund research proposals that align with one of four key topics, which are bespoke to each English Region.

For the West Midlands our topic is:

Car use and residential density preferences in young people: affordability or lifestyle changes

The deadline to apply is **Sunday 13 August:**
Find out more on our website >>>

Celebrating Planning Excellence in the West Midlands



WEST MIDLANDS

Congratulations to winners at the **West Midlands Awards for Planning Excellence 2023**, who were announced at our awards dinner on Friday 30th June at Millennium Point, Birmingham. Award winners and categories included:

- **Small Planning Consultancy of the Year** - *Delta Planning*
- **Best Project** - *Perry Barr Residential Scheme, entered by Birmingham City Council, Arcadis and Arup*
- **Planning Authority of the Year** - *South Staffordshire Council*
- **West Midlands Chair's Award** - *South Staffordshire Council*
- **Young Planner of the Year** - *Joshua Singh*

The West Midlands Awards for Planning Excellence recognise and highlight the positive contribution planning professionals make in the communities we serve around the world.

Our regional winners* will now be going forward to compete in the national RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence, with all category finalists being announced on October 9th 2023. The national awards ceremony will take place on 21st November 2023 in London (venue to be confirmed).

*All Young Planner of the Year winners will be entered into the national shortlist and will be judged by the national judges.

Get in touch

Tripwire is the magazine of RTPI West Midlands, produced by our members for our members. The opinions expressed are the views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the RTPI. You can read all of our digital editions published from 2017 to the present on [our website](#).

If you would like to contribute a photo, illustration or article, suggest a theme for future editions or have any ideas for content please email the Editor at tripwirewm@gmail.com.

Contact RTPI West Midlands via email westmidlands@rtpi.org.uk.

You can also follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) or see what's going on in the region on our [website](#).

