



RTPI Northern Ireland
Royal Town Planning Institute



RTPI Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Planning Conference

Positive About Planning

4 September 2024, Europa Hotel, Belfast

Useful Resources





Positive About Planning / 4 September 2024

Welcome to the Northern Ireland Planning Conference 2024

Positive about Planning

In today's Conference we will be looking at the outcome of our Big Conversation NI survey and aim to promote positivity around planning by exploring the issues, impacts, causes and potential solutions to support the profession by confident in their roles and to deliver the planning system.

We will look at collaborative working and there is a resilience for Planners wellbeing session to look forward to this afternoon.

Keep an eye on our social media updates and join in the conversation: #NIPlannerLive @RTPINI

The speakers' biographies are available [here](#).

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A big thank you to today's conference sponsor for their support

Gravis Planning is a market-leading, integrated Planning and Strategic Communications consultancy operating across the UK and Ireland. With offices in Belfast, Dublin, London and Edinburgh, we are active across all sectors of built development. We act on behalf of a wide range of clients across the private, public and third sectors.

Our Planning team provides advice across all aspects of the planning process. We manage applications for some of the largest development projects as well as smaller applications.

Our Strategic Communications team manages stakeholder engagement and public relations. We often support our Planning team but can also be appointed on a standalone basis.

With 25 years of industry experience and over £12 billion of infrastructure development supported, Gravis Planning is excellently positioned to provide expert planning and strategic communications advice.



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Thank you also to....

TSA Planning for sponsoring 10 student places at this year's Annual Conference.

This sponsorship allows us to support the next generation of planners by providing both Queens University Belfast and Ulster University with five RTPI student places each.



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PROGRAMME

9.00AM Registration and networking

- **Welcome** - Chris Bryson MRTPI - RTPI NI Chair
- **Keynote Speech** - John O'Dowd, Minister for Infrastructure
- **Planning Improvement Programme** - Rosemary Daly MRTPI, Director, Regional Planning Governance & Legislation, DfI and Alison McCullagh, SOLACE/CE Fermanagh & Omagh District Council

Coffee and Networking

10.50pm Welcome Back!

- **Moving the Big Conversation to Big Action** - Mark Hand MRTPI, RTPI Director Wales, NI and Planning Aid England
- **Scotland's National Planning Improvement Service** - Craig McLaren FRTPI, National Planning Improvement Champion
- **Perception and Hidden Values of Planning** - Alice Charles MRTPI, Director for Cities, Planning & Design, Arup

Q&A

12.20pm Lunch and networking

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1.20PM **Welcome back!**

Positive Engagement on Planning and Development - John Fullerton, Director, Strategic Communications, Gravis

Positive about Collaborative Working (Panel Discussion)

- Karen McShane, Immediate Past President CIHT
- Ciaran Fox, Director, RSUA
- Jan Sloan, Executive Director of Development and New Business, Clanmil
- Philip McClay, Board Member, RICS

Comfort Break

Wellbeing Session – Resilience for Planners - Lianne Weaver, Beam Training

Closing Speech - Lindsey Richards FRTPI, President RTPI

4.05pm **Conference Close**



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Conference Exhibitors



MCL Consulting are industry leaders in Environmental Consultancy

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Nominations invited for the RTPI NI Executive Committee

Nominations **are now open** for roles on the RTPI Northern Ireland Executive Committee, starting from January 2025. Look out for the e-mail from mi-voice.

The following roles are available:

- Junior Vice Chair (2025) - and progressing to Chair in 2027
- Corporate Members (2 positions) (sitting for 2 years 2025/26)
- Associate or Legal Associate (1 position) (sitting for 2 years 2025/26)
- Licentiate or Student Representative (1 position) (sitting for 2 years 2025 and 2026)
- General Assembly Representative (1 position) sitting for 2 years 2025 and 2026)

Our Executive Committee members come from the public, private, academic and third sectors and play a vital role in supporting our members - volunteering their times, enthusiasm and expertise in planning. Further information on Committees can be found [here](#)

Nominations close **5pm on 27 September 2024** For more information contact northernireland@rtpi.org.uk.

www.rtpi.org.uk

[@RTPINI](https://twitter.com/RTPINI)

[#NIPlannerLive](https://twitter.com/NIPlannerLive)



Calling all Members!

Please ensure your details are kept up-to-date. This ensures that you don't miss out on news locally and nationally. Login [here](#) and check your details are correct.

Not a member?

Check out the benefits of RTPI Membership [here](#)

Considered Volunteering?

Members that choose to get involved as volunteers help strengthen our profession's collective voice. By volunteering you will expand your professional network, learn new skills and have an active role in shaping the planning profession.

Visit our [website](#) to find out more about how you can get involved locally or nationally



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2025 Sponsorship Opportunities

We have released our sponsorship opportunities for next year.

To find out how you can support us and help us run our programme of events, please contact [Julie Sullivan](#) to discuss.



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RTPI

Royal Town Planning Institute

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