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#RTPIAwards

# Welcome to the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2021



## President's welcome Dr Wei Yang FRTPI

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to our RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2021. For over 40 years, these prestigious awards have celebrated the positive role planners play in our society and remain the most important awards for our profession.

In the middle of a global pandemic, the Awards for Planning Excellence are more relevant than ever to showcase the contributions of town planners in **Planning the World We Need** for communities in the UK and internationally.

The fact that even in lockdown we received 112 entries is testament to the continuing high performance of all planners. I am particularly delighted that we are able to celebrate the planning heroes of the pandemic in the 2021 Awards. I believe we are all planning heroes. We have kept going, we reacted quickly to the lockdown in so many ways, whilst also looking to the future to ensure that we are planning for a greener and healthier recovery.

The Awards could not happen without our expert independent judges and this year the judging happened entirely remotely, enabling us to have our first ever international Chair of Judges: Dy Currie HonMRTPI, Immediate Past President of the Commonwealth Association of Planners and Past President of the Planning Institute of Australia.

Thank you also to our 40 judges. We are delighted that we had such a representative selection of experts coming from all parts of the UK and internationally, from a range of backgrounds and with an equal gender split.

I would like to express my gratitude to our sponsors and partners for supporting the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2021. Thank you to our headline sponsor - AECOM, our brand sponsor - Pegasus, our new partner - Public Practice, and our category sponsors - Connected Places Catapult, Downey Planning and Architecture, Optimis Consulting and Places for People.

I am delighted to announce that the RTPI will plant a tree for the winner of each category this year (#ReTreeFit) as we believe the trees will benefit our future generations as our planning profession does.

Many congratulations to all the Winners, Commended and Finalists!

April 2021

# Thank you to our 2021 Headline Sponsor



Also sponsoring  
Excellence in Planning for  
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AECOM are a global network of experts working with clients, communities and colleagues to develop and implement innovative solutions to the world's most complex challenges.

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## Thank you to our 2021 Category Sponsors

### Excellence in Tech within Planning Practice



Connected Places Catapult accelerates smarter living and travelling in and between the places of tomorrow. They focus on growing businesses with innovations in mobility services and the built environment that enable new levels of physical, digital and social connectedness. Connected Places Catapult operates at the intersection between public and private sectors and between local government and transport authorities. They convene the disparate parts of the market to help innovators navigate the complexity of doing business, creating new commercial opportunities and improving productivity, socio-economic and environmental benefits for places.

[cp.catapult.org.uk](http://cp.catapult.org.uk)

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## Planning Consultancy of the Year sponsor



Downey is a multi-disciplinary practice of Chartered Town Planners, RIAI Architects, Landscape Architects and Project Managers.

Their collective ethos is to perfect 'the art of planning and design' to deliver projects within the construction sector and other associated industries. Their integrated service provides a full suite of experienced professionals in house to develop best solutions to the ever changing and complex environment of obtaining planning permissions, details design and implementation on site. Through an in-house collaboration they deliver exemplary solutions for schemes, constantly improving efficiency, time and cost management with notable increases in the quality of all their developments. Their extensive experience and proven track record of obtaining Strategic Housing Developments (SHD) permissions incl. Build to Rent (BTR) and Co-Living schemes ensure that their clients, both in the public and private sectors, benefit from optimum success rates of planning procurement and development.

[dpaa.ie](http://dpaa.ie) [@downeyplanning](https://twitter.com/downeyplanning)

## Small Planning Consultancy of the Year sponsor



Optimis Consulting is a planning and development consultancy, specialising in residential-led developments, based in Bedford.

In 2017 Optimis Consulting was named RTPI Small Planning Consultancy of the Year and they are delighted to be sponsoring that category at the awards this year.

[optimis-consulting.co.uk](http://optimis-consulting.co.uk) [@optimisInfo](https://twitter.com/optimisInfo)

## Young Planner of the Year sponsor



Places for People is one of the largest companies working in property and leisure management, development and regeneration in the UK. The Group makes a long-term commitment to its communities and works to provide what they need to thrive – whether it is new schools, shops, leisure facilities, job opportunities, access to learning and training or specialist support services. It is committed to creating successful places and enabling people to reach their potential. As a not-for-dividend organisation, any profit is reinvested back into its core business of creating and maintaining sustainable places.

[placesforpeople.co.uk](http://placesforpeople.co.uk) [@placesforpeople](https://twitter.com/placesforpeople)

## Brand sponsor



Pegasus Group is a leading national development consultancy specialising in planning, design, environment, economics and heritage. They have more than 300 skilled and experienced staff operating from 14 offices who work in collaboration with our clients to provide bespoke solutions focusing on delivering successful outcomes and maximising value. They combine local and national knowledge of the property and development industry to provide an unrivalled understanding of what is required to make schemes successful. Pegasus Group's integrated teams combine knowledge and expertise and have worked on some of the UK's highest profile projects, developing excellent relationships with their clients and winning awards in the process.

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# Thank you to our 2021 Awards Partner

## Planning Authority Team of the Year

**PUBLIC  
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Public Practices' purpose is not just to increase and diversify the built environment expertise working in local government, it's to transform the status of public service, and support those working within it to lead the way. To do this we have created a unique professional placement programme specifically designed for built environment practitioners and their public authority hosts, whilst also celebrating and capturing leading industry knowledge and sharing it across the wider sector.

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# Excellence in Plan Making Practice Winner

## Preston City Living Strategy submitted by Preston City Council and Hive Land & Planning (North West)

Preston City Council, in partnership with Hive Land & Planning, has developed a City Living Strategy, a new model for delivering the vision and policies of the adopted Local Plan. It was recognised that a pro-active approach was required to de-risk residential brownfield sites in Inner Preston to attract private investment. A series of innovative solutions have been implemented to overcome the barriers to delivery. The delivery of these sites will bring transformational housing growth in inner Preston, regenerate neighbourhoods, and have positive benefits for local communities, as well as the physical environment.



### The judges' comments:

*"The judges said this Strategy was extremely impressive. The plan and the practice in implementing it is innovative and leading, especially insofar as it is a planning document which seeks to involve itself with the practicalities of delivering development. Additionally, the planners had a proactive approach to addressing a wide range of issues, such as, de-risking brownfield sites to attract public and private investment, which is very transferable. The judges particularly commended the inclusion of a human rights assessment within the Strategy, which is over and above the call of duty for planning."*

# Excellence in Plan Making Practice Commended

## Ross-on-Wye Neighbourhood Plan submitted by Place Studio (West Midlands)

The Ross-on-Wye Neighbourhood Plan addressed a wide range of issues of long term concern to local people. By working with the plan Steering Group, and drawing on the outcomes of a huge variety of highly proactive community engagement, an innovative and challenging plan emerged. There was also close working with Herefordshire Council and some landowners and developers. The plan has passed examination but, although the referendum is now delayed due to Covid-19, it is already being used to assess planning applications, and some of the associated practical projects are also on their way.

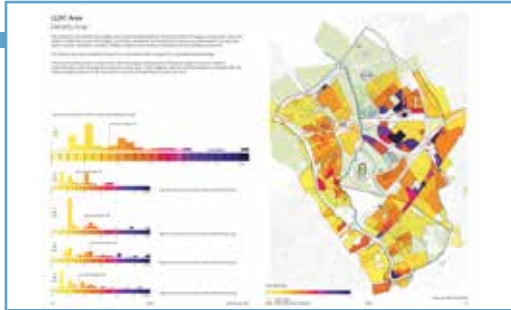


### The judges' comments:

*"The judges chose to commend this entry, not only to highlight the fantastic work carried out, but to promote the transferability of the work across the UK. This submission showed a clear passion from the planners in wanting to drive this Neighbourhood Plan forward and their work went above and beyond for both planning and the community. They were able to engage effectively with the local community, including difficult to reach groups, to give them a sense of ownership, which led to a successful implementation of the Plan. This project, that brings people back to the centre of planning, is a positive and beneficial framework that should be replicated."*



# Excellence in Plan Making Practice Finalists



## Density Study submitted by MICA Architects and The London Legacy Development Corporation

MICA Architects work at all scales, from regional through to interiors. The LLDC was established to deliver the long-term legacy from the 2012 Games.



## East Ayrshire Council Minerals Local Development Plan submitted by East Ayrshire Council

A Minerals Local Development Plan with a focus on restoration which was key to securing a £2.2 million regeneration lottery grant prior to its adoption.



## Galway Public Realm Strategy submitted by Allies and Morrison

The Galway Public Realm Strategy sets out a bold vision of step change in quality and a restructuring of public spaces to put people first.



## LCR Listens: Our Places - Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy Engagement submitted by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy: Engaging (not consulting) on a strategic spatial plan with those who don't usually engage in spatial planning.



## National Design Guide submitted by Tibbalds Planning and Urban Design with Design Council and MHCLG

The National Design Guide explains the government's design priorities and illustrates how well-designed places that are beautiful, enduring and successful can be achieved in practice.



## The Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2020 - Delivering Digital Engagement During a Pandemic submitted by Aberdeenshire Council

Amidst a global pandemic Aberdeenshire Council moved seamlessly from a consultation strategy traditionally reliant on face-to-face engagement to one promoting primarily digital means of engagement.



## Warrington Central 6 Regeneration Masterplan submitted by Kevin Murray Associates and Warrington Borough Council

The Warrington Central 6 Regeneration Masterplan is an ambitious plan that takes cross-cutting community aspirations, weaving them into a coherent, influential plan for better neighbourhoods. Image by KMA.

# Excellence in Planning for a Successful Economy Winner

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## The BIS

submitted by Hartlepool Borough Council (North East)

The BIS is a vibrant flexible workspace providing studios and offices for the creative industries sector through the refurbishment and extension of the derelict Grade II Listed former General Post Office Building in Hartlepool. The project is aimed at both new and existing creative businesses to capture and retain knowledge and skills in the town. It is a key catalyst project in the Innovation and Skills Quarter regeneration strategy, is significantly contributing to the revitalisation of the Church Street Victorian conservation area, whilst bringing community benefit by shifting perceptions of the area from decline into an evolving and dynamic area.



### The judges' comments:

*"The BIS successfully demonstrates the role of the public sector in looking to the future and how town centres will recover. Their development of multi use spaces is an easily transferable scheme that vacant buildings in cities all over the country could benefit from. This project represents confidence in town centre development and a strong emphasis on the role of creative industries with 75% of spaces filled in the first year of the project. Judges described the project as being "right time, right market meeting demand of the creative industries."*

# Excellence in Planning for a Successful Economy Commended

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## Great Central Square

submitted by Leicester City Council and Marrons  
Planning (East Midlands)

Great Central Square is a £60m regeneration scheme connecting the Waterside area of Leicester to the heart of the City Centre. Its delivery is an exemplar of public and private sector co-operation. The scheme comprises two hotels, 33,000 sq. ft. of Class A office space and the refurbishment of the (locally listed) former Great Central Railway Station to 20,000 sq. ft. of leisure space. The scheme includes a pedestrian super-crossing and public open realm. It occupies one of the most prominent positions in Leicester City centre, directly opposite John Lewis and Highcross Shopping Centre and has been a catalyst for a £200m regeneration renaissance in the city.



### The judges' comments:

*"The judges were impressed by the development of this long standing brownfield site in the Leicester city centre. The project kept multiplier value in the local area by keeping the majority of investment within a 30 mile radius of the site and provided apprenticeships, employment and training. The judges were impressed by the community benefit of the project."*

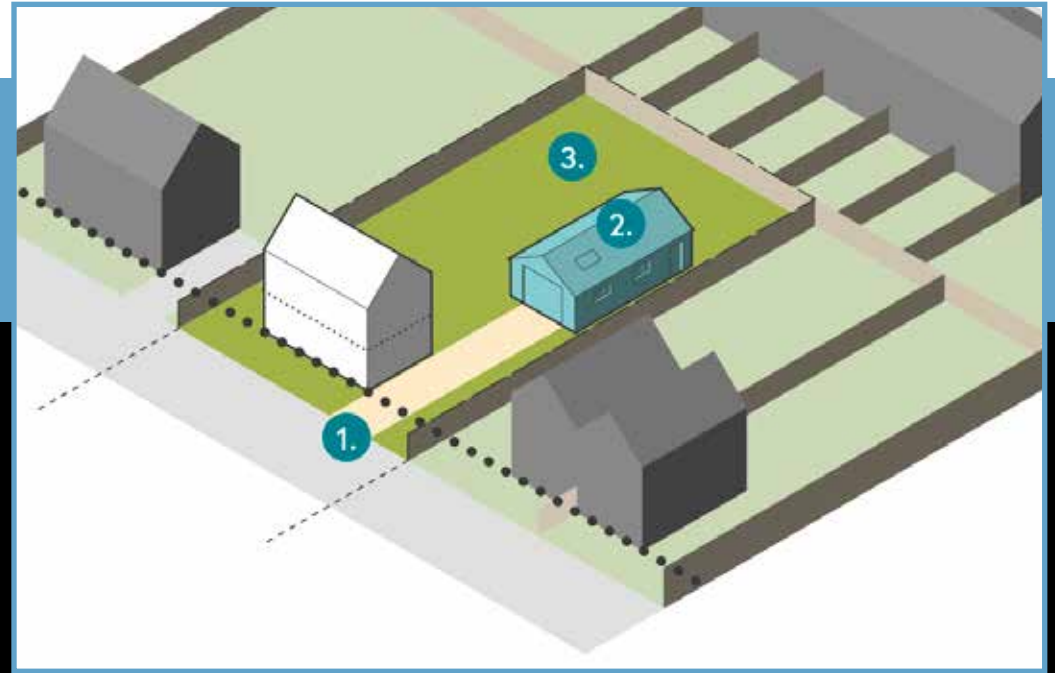
# Excellence in Planning for a Successful Economy Commended

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## Small Scale Employment Space Local Development Order submitted by Somerset West and Taunton Council (South West)

This LDO sets out to support small businesses by meeting evidenced demand for enhanced work from home and light industrial freehold spaces. This need has been accentuated by the context of Covid-19 and a national recession requiring local and national government support for business and employment opportunities.

The LDO will provide independent entrepreneurs and small businesses with a mechanism to create or expand their businesses outside the District's established centres for employment. The purpose of this LDO is to provide a straightforward system, with clarity and certainty, while reducing the administrative costs and burdens involved in a full planning application.



### The judges' comments:

*"This project addresses the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the economy both within established cities and towns as well as rural locations. This project provides a solution to promoting entrepreneurship and small businesses against a backdrop of economic uncertainty. It seeks to reduce the constraints of the planning system by making planning applications easier for those who may be put off by the process."*

# Excellence in Planning for a Successful Economy Finalists

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## **The Glassworks Phase 1 submitted by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council**

The Glass Works Phase 1 is Barnsley's go-to retail and leisure destination located in the heart of the Metropolitan centre.

## **Horizon 120 Business and Innovation Park submitted by Strutt & Parker and Braintree District Council**

Through a Local Development Order, Horizon 120 Business and Innovation Park provides a favourable planning position for well designed buildings in a high quality environment.

## **International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) submitted by Lichfields**

Rapid planning submissions and close working with the Local Planning Authority enabled the approval and construction of three bespoke manufacturing units to tight occupier deadlines.

## **New Headquarters for CABI submitted by Ridge and Partners LLP**

The new CABI HQ building provides a high-quality all-inclusive facility which retains this non-for-profit organisation within the local area whilst protecting and enhancing job opportunities. Image by Hundven Clements Photography.



## **South West Rail Resilience Programme submitted by Network Rail**

The South West Rail Resilience Programme has delivered a new taller sea wall in Dawlish, protecting the railway from rising sea levels and extreme weather.



## **Wolverhampton Interchange submitted by City of Wolverhampton Council / Ion Development**

Wolverhampton Interchange delivers a £150m state-of-the-art, multi-modal transport hub around which the city is developing its new commercial gateway. Image by City of Wolverhampton Council.

# Excellence in Planning for Health and Wellbeing Winner

## Plymouth Climate Challenge and the Climate Emergency Bonus submitted by Plymouth City Council (South West)

Plymouth City Council's 'Climate Emergency Bonus' is a project developed by Plymouth's planners to inspire and encourage community-led climate action. The Bonus is an 'add-on' to Plymouth's award winning City Change Fund, which uses a Crowdfunder model to distribute funds to community projects from the Community Infrastructure Levy 'neighbourhood proportion'. The Bonus is available to projects which contribute significantly to Plymouth's climate emergency response. A Climate Challenge competition was run in the autumn to promote the bonus and inspire community-led climate action, culminating in a high-profile live Crowdfunding event on 3 December 2020.



### The judges' comments:

*"Plymouth City Council have had to think outside the box due to lockdown, using creative approaches to do so, and are on the pulse with what the local community need and would benefit from. The judges were impressed with the levels of engagement with the community, giving them a sense of ownership over the project in these unprecedented times. The passionate work of planners goes above and beyond the remit of the typical day to day work within Local Authorities."*

# Excellence in Planning for Health and Wellbeing Finalists



**The Catalyst, Newcastle Helix submitted by Newcastle City Council and Newcastle University**

The Catalyst is home to Newcastle University's National Innovation Centres for Aging and Data and provides a UK hub for scientific research and innovation.



**Circle Health Rehabilitation Hospital submitted by David Lock Associates Ltd and Bryden Wood**

Demolishing the former BBC Pebble Mill Studios offered the opportunity to transform a globally recognised site into a regional medical hub for the wider community. Image by Tim Cornbill.



**Cleddau Reaches Green Infrastructure Project submitted by Pembrokeshire County Council**

The project delivered Green Infrastructure improvements in Haverfordwest - creating and improving rights of way, managing habitat, creating a Green Wall and new river access.



**Climate Innovation District submitted by Citu Group Developments Ltd**

The Climate Innovation District is an 850-unit, sustainable, low-carbon mixed-use development, spanning both banks of the River Aire in Leeds city centre. Image by Citu.



**Glasgow Canal Project submitted by Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership (GCRP)**

The Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership's vision is to create a series of healthy, high quality and vibrant places and communities along the canal corridor. Image by LUC Land Use Consultants.

# Excellence in Planning for Heritage and Culture Winner

## Illuminated River

submitted by Montagu Evans LLP (London)

The Illuminated River project is one of the world's' most ambitious public art installations. When all phases are complete, it will span up to 14 iconic and historical bridges along 4.5 nautical miles of the River Thames and will be viewed at least 90 million times every year.

The installation is being delivered by the Illuminated River Foundation and is a philanthropically-funded initiative of the Rothschild Foundation, supported by the Mayor of London. It will be the largest public art installation in the world, celebrating an often overlooked part of London and celebrating the heritage and culture of the Thames.



### The judges' comments:

*"Illuminated River is a large-scale project which has demonstrated a constructive approach to cross-boundary working and utilised a high degree of collaboration involved to enable the creation of such a large and significant public art installation. The planning tools used, the EIA and the considerable stakeholder engagement from a planning perspectives sets it above all the other entries. The benefits to the community are clear, the economic value created and the sustainability credentials all make this entry worthy of winning. The judges also noted that the degree of innovation, including new ways of understanding the urban heritage and the interactive Environmental Statement, are of national (and perhaps international) importance."*



# Excellence in Planning for Heritage and Culture Commended

## Bicester Heritage

submitted by Bicester Motion Limited (South East)

Since 2013, Bicester Heritage has carefully restored the derelict former RAF Bicester Aerodrome to create the first Centre of Excellence for historic motoring enterprise in the world. Based at the UK's best-preserved WW2 RAF Bomber Station, Bicester Heritage has gone from a standing start just seven years ago, to the national focal point for a £8.8bn per annum industry, with over 45 specialist businesses based in fifty refurbished 1920s and 30s buildings. Now at capacity, Bicester Heritage has just completed a landmark extension to the historic site, sympathetically constructing the first new buildings at their location in eighty years.



### The judges' comments:

*"Bicester Heritage has demonstrated a collaborative approach to achieve long term protection and use of a challenging site. Its economic success and catering for a specialist industry benefits the local community and local workforce. The status of the scheme as a National Exemplar of Constructive Conservation is noteworthy. The economic impacts are impressive and the cluster concept is transferable on a national level. It's clear that planning has made a central contribution and early dialogue and engagement with key stakeholders, and the use of a Heritage Partnership Agreement, provided a great foundation for the success of this project. The judges were particularly impressed that the project facilitated over 1 million meals being provided to front line health workers during the first national Covid-19 lockdown, showing how embedded the project already is in the wider community."*

# Excellence in Planning for Heritage and Culture Finalists



## **The BIS submitted by Hartlepool Borough Council**

The BIS, a vibrant workspace for the creative industries sector in the refurbished and extended Grade II Listed former General Post Office Building in Hartlepool.



## **Lady Matheson's Seminary submitted by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar**

This historic rehabilitation project, restored the Category-B Listed, Lady Matheson's Seminary to its former splendour, providing affordable housing in the heart of Stornoway Conservation Area. Image by Lewis Builders Ltd.



## **Omega Warrington submitted by Miller Developments Limited**

Miller Developments is a leading UK land and property development company. Together with Homes England they are working to improve neighbourhoods and grow communities.



## **Royal Liver Building, Liverpool submitted by CBRE Ltd**

CBRE's Planning Team provided planning advice to bring the historic Royal Liver Building back to life.



## **Smith's Dock submitted by Urban Splash and Places for People**

The regeneration of Smith's Dock, a former shipyard into one of the North East's most sought after waterfront communities is a true development success story.

# Excellence in Planning for the Natural Environment Winner

## Plymouth Climate Challenge and the Climate Emergency Bonus submitted by Plymouth City Council (South West)

Plymouth City Council's 'Climate Emergency Bonus' is a project developed by Plymouth's planners to inspire and encourage community-led climate action. The Bonus is an 'add-on' to Plymouth's award winning City Change Fund, which uses a Crowdfunder model to distribute funds to community projects from the Community Infrastructure Levy 'neighbourhood proportion'. The Bonus is available to projects which contribute significantly to Plymouth's climate emergency response. A Climate Challenge competition was run in the autumn to promote the bonus and inspire community-led climate action, culminating in a high-profile live Crowdfunding event on 3 December 2020.



### The judges' comments:

*"This initiative encourages communities to lead on mitigating climate change, as well as providing education and awareness to the wider public to continue to address climate change. Climate change requires as many actors and agents to change as possible and this project clearly built momentum and inspired many in the community, with 12 community projects launched in a short space of time. The judges were blown away by the transferability of this project and felt that the project could be easily replicated in many contexts."*

# Excellence in Planning for the Natural Environment Finalists



## Cromhall Water Recycling Centre Integrated Constructed Wetland submitted by Wessex Water

The phosphorus removal wetland is a UK water industry first that demonstrates sustainability through improved sewage treatment, carbon sequestration and ecological and biodiversity gain.



## Glasgow's Open Space Strategy submitted by Glasgow City Council

The Open Space strategy creates a place based approach with, nature based solutions focus to how Glasgow should strategically plan for, use & manage openspaces.



## Jersey Integrated Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment submitted by Government of Jersey

The Jersey Integrated Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment analyses and celebrates Jersey's unique island environment and its contribution to a distinct sense of place. Image by Fiona Fyfe Associates.



## Liverpool City Region Natural Capital submitted by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

The Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy is embedding a 'natural capital approach' into spatial planning, securing lasting benefits offered by the natural environment.



## Om Dark Sky Park and Observatory, Davagh Forest submitted by Mid Ulster District Council Planning Department

Davagh Dark Sky Park is an internationally accredited signature tourist attraction which promotes the conservation of our dark skies, Sperrins AONB and peatland habitats. Image by Christopher McKay.



## Omega Warrington submitted by Miller Developments Limited

Miller Developments is a leading UK land and property development company. Together with Homes England they are working to improve neighbourhoods and grow communities.



## South West Rail Resilience Programme submitted by Network Rail

The South West Rail Resilience Programme has delivered a new taller sea wall in Dawlish, protecting the railway from rising sea levels and extreme weather.

# Excellence in Planning to Deliver Homes small schemes (up to 50 homes) Winner

## North Norfolk District Wide Affordable Housing Strategy submitted by Broadland Housing Association (East of England)

North Norfolk has one of the most acute needs for affordable housing outside London. Changes to government funding for affordable housing meant that delivery, particularly in rural villages, was unviable.

Broadland Housing Association (BHA) identified the opportunity through changes to national policy to generate proceeds through the development of market homes that could subsidise the delivery of affordable housing across North Norfolk.

The district-wide strategy delivered 61 affordable homes in 5 rural locations, linked by one Section 106 Agreement. The schemes have been thoughtfully designed having regard to existing and future residents to ensure the creation of sustainable, inclusive, communities.



### The judges' comments:

*"The judges were particularly impressed by this entry as they had not seen affordable housing delivered in this way and praised the Broadland Housing Association for finding effective solutions to the funding gap they were faced with. They felt that these solutions demonstrated a link between national and local planning policy and delivery of schemes which had a strong focus on providing affordable housing."*

# Excellence in Planning to Deliver Homes small schemes (up to 50 homes) Finalists



## **Central View submitted by Newport City Council**

The entrant Newport City Councils planning and regeneration teams work to support sustainable activity in the City Centre successfully engaging with commercial and residential developers. Image by Newport City Council.



## **Holmlea Primary School Conversion submitted by Glasgow City Council**

Holmlea Primary School, a category B Listed Building on the Buildings at Risk register since 2004. Restored and converted to 49 affordable homes. Image by Anderson Bell Christie Architects Keith Hunter.



## **RedHill Court, Burnt Oak Broadway submitted by HTA Design LLP**

HTA secured planning permission for the redevelopment of the former Burnt Oak Registry Office to provide 30 100% affordable housing scheme for Barnet Homes.

# Excellence in Planning to Deliver Homes large schemes (50 or more homes) Winner

## Great Kneighton

submitted by Countryside (South East)

Great Kneighton is an exemplar new community in one of the most sought-after areas in Cambridge. Following years of careful planning, Countryside is now in the final stages of the comprehensive transformation of arable land adjacent to Trumpington Village into a successfully interconnected mixed use development with over 2500 new homes, improved access to the countryside, enhanced facilities and enriched biodiversity for the whole community to call home. A contemporary, sustainable neighbourhood community spread over 269 acres, Great Kneighton forms an attractive part of the Cambridge southern fringe urban extension, set out in the Cambridge Local Plan, adopted in 2008.



### The judges' comments:

*"Great Kneighton is an inspiring, innovative planned urban extension which hosts considerable community benefits as well as well-planned housing and supporting uses. This project is an excellent example of the role of the contribution of planning with planning being involved from inception to delivery. The judges also noted the impressive level of affordable housing included within the project."*

”

# Excellence in Planning to Deliver Homes large schemes (50 or more homes) Finalists



## 101 George Street, Croydon submitted by HTA Design LLP

A unique modular build to rent scheme in the heart of Croydon town centre with 546 apartments including affordable housing.



## Brooklands submitted by Places for People

Brooklands is a complete living experience, encompassing modern day requirements of a wide spectrum of residents and businesses, located just 10 minutes from Milton Keynes.



## Campbell Wharf, Milton Keynes submitted by Bidwells

Campbell Wharf, Milton Keynes is a vibrant and unique development of 383 homes, a nursery, pub, retail/commercial units, public open spaces and a short-stay marina. Image by Crest Nicholson.



## Glan Llyn – Eastern Sub-Area Masterplan submitted by Savills, St. Modwen Developments (Llanwern) Limited and Stephen George and Partners LLP

The Eastern Sub-Area Masterplan at Glan Llyn is a key milestone in a major regeneration project delivering new homes, open spaces, schools and community facilities. Image by St. Modwen Developments (Llanwern) Limited.



## New Islington submitted by Urban Splash

Urban Splash and key partners have created New Islington – a destination named as one of the best places to live by the Sunday Times.



## Pennington Wharf submitted by Taylor Wimpey (Manchester)

35 acres of residentially-led, mixed-use development; a flagship regeneration project in partnership with Taylor Wimpey, Homes England and Wigan council. Image by Taylor Wimpey Manchester.



## Port Loop submitted by Urban Splash and Places for People

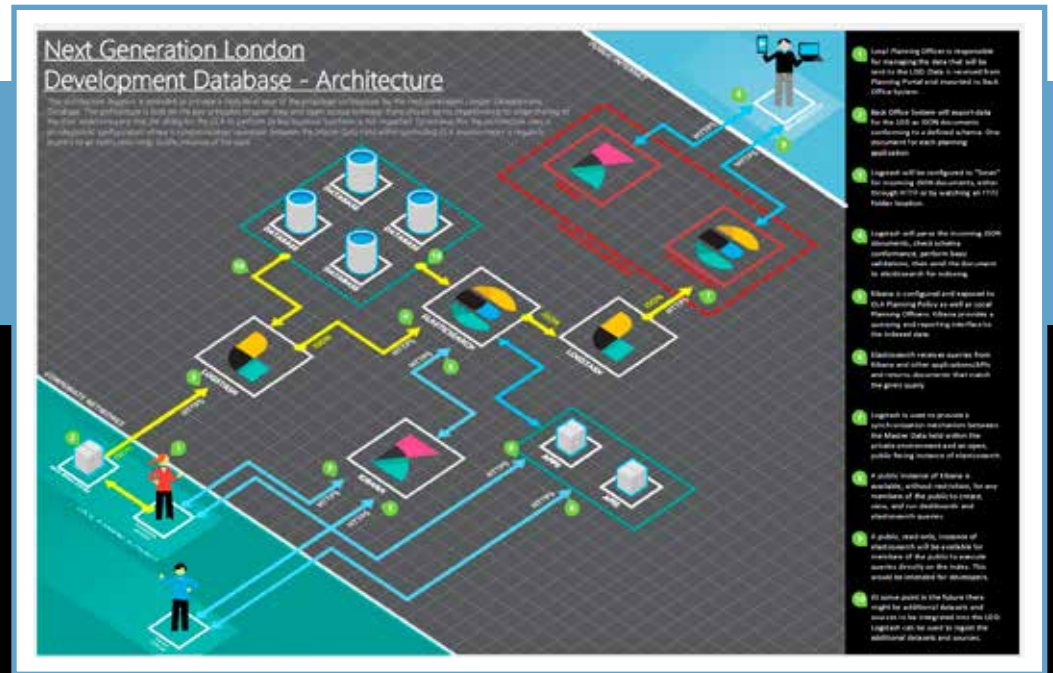
Port Loop is creating an exciting new island community for Birmingham - a 43-acre waterside neighbourhood of homes, workspaces, green spaces and community facilities.



# Excellence in Tech within Planning Practice Winner

## Planning London Datahub - Greater London Authority submitted by Atkins Limited (London)

The Planning London Datahub (PLD) is a collaborative project that delivers new insight into how our city is changing. It is a dataset produced through the planning system, together with a website to provide visualisation of the data and access to the core dataset to allow residents, the planning community and proptech users access to data which enables them to monitor change, and shape the communities of tomorrow. This is achieved by automating how information on planning applications for development are collected and reported on by planning authorities across London, whilst at the same time reducing the burden on London's Local Planning Authorities and improving the quantity and quality of data available to the public.



### The judges' comments:

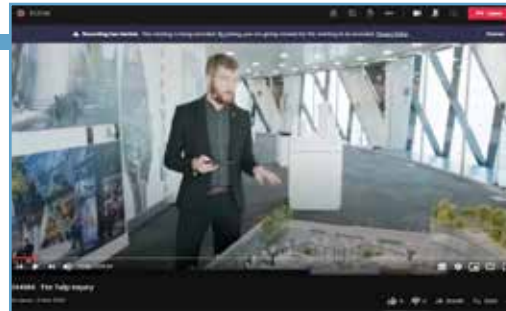
*"This project was strong across all of the criteria. The Datahub transfers an immense amount of information into digital data that can then be transferred to other platforms and tools. It can also be a helpful tool for strategic cross boundary planning. The scheme is true to the principle of good PlanTech and the judges were impressed that it has truly been driven by the planners themselves. This brilliant concept is also highly transferable and scalable to other cities."*

# Excellence in Tech within Planning Practice Finalists



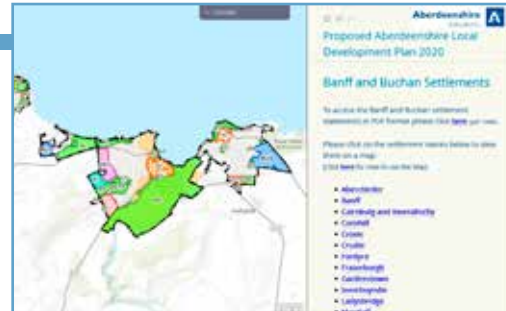
## Interactive Plymouth Plan submitted by Plymouth City Council

One strategic plan, totally interactive, agile and accessible to all who want to explore and learn a bit more about Plymouth, Britain's Ocean City.



## The Planning Inspectorate's transformation of face-to-face examination events to virtual delivery submitted by The Planning Inspectorate

The Inspectorate's facilitation of virtual events: adapting ALL events-based planning casework across England to virtual hosting, enabling fair/robust oral examination of complex casework to continue.



## The Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2020 - Delivering Digital Engagement During a Pandemic submitted by Aberdeenshire Council

Amidst a global pandemic Aberdeenshire Council moved seamlessly from a consultation strategy traditionally reliant on face-to-face engagement to one promoting primarily digital means of engagement.

# International Award for Planning Excellence Winner

## Cape, Torres, and Gulf Economic Opportunities Plan submitted Arup Australia Pty Ltd and Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) Inc. (Australia)

Arup worked with the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance Inc. (TCICA) to develop the first cohesive, community endorsed and regionally-led economic strategy for the Torres Strait, Cape York and Gulf region in far north Queensland. The Economic Opportunities Plan looked at what economic opportunities there may be for the region that could create and drive growth. It was based on strong community involvement, with the vision and actions for growth developed through shared consensus between each of the 14 councils on the TCICA.



### The judges' comments:

*"The judges said the project's approach to community engagement was exemplary as it highlighted the key benefit of early engagement with local communities in the public consultation process. The role of planners was clear and the judges were impressed by the level of work they achieved over such a large area. The scale therefore demonstrated a high level of coordination and strategic thinking. Their work had a meaningful impact, tackled many economic, social and environmental issues, and would be likely to have long-term impacts."*




# International Award for Planning Excellence Finalists



## AIUla submitted by Allies and Morrison

The AIUla Framework will protect and safeguard precious world heritage while advancing the tourism sector as an effective means towards fairer growth in sustainable development.

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conversation**

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#RTPIAwards

# In-house Planning Team of the Year Winner

## Jacobs (London)

Jacobs team are experts in Town & Country Planning, DCO, Hybrid Bills, Marine Planning, National & Local Policy, Local Plans, City-wide Strategies, Socio-economic Assessments and Masterplanning.

29 Combined with engineering disciplines, they are amongst the largest supplier of consenting resource expertise nationally, working across highways, rail, aviation, energy and residential. Integrated into the wider design elements of engineering and environmental specialists, they deliver value in front end planning advice and across project lifecycles offering a comprehensive understanding of requirements for a successful planning submission.

They work alongside Jacobs in-house stakeholder engagement team who are specialists in major programmes, including DCOs.



### The judges' comments:

*"Jacobs is a team with strong delivery and ability to get projects over the line. There is positive work being done by this planning team to develop and apply new approaches, which is delivering positive outcomes in terms of project delivery at pace. The judges were particularly impressed by their excellent client feedback as well as their leadership and innovation in the field of major infrastructure projects."*




# In-house Planning Team of the Year Finalists



**Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks**  
SSEN Transmissions Consents & Environment team are at the forefront of delivering sustainable infrastructure across the north of Scotland assisting the Governments' Net Zero ambitions.

30

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# Planning Authority Team of the Year Commended

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## Preston City Council (North West)

Preston Planning Department regularly demonstrates great flexibility, resolve and a positive attitude in delivering a high class service across the full range of planning disciplines. This was exemplified during the Covid pandemic when the team rose to the occasion to perform a range of duties in getting emergency food parcels and medicines to vulnerable and isolated members of the community. The team volunteered to staff the telephone support helpline as well as helping to set up and steward Covid testing stations across the city.



### The judges' comments:

*"The judges commended Preston City Council for offering a complex service that is having a significant effect on the area. They have presented a rich collection of ideas that are engaging and have gone the extra mile to give back to the community. The judges highlighted the council's exemplary position on development reflected in their staffing including four RTPI licentiate members, one colleague on an RTPI accredited Apprenticeship and their annual summer placement programme for graduates and school leavers. This programme appears to be hugely successful at drawing people into the profession."*

# Planning Authority Team of the Year Commended

Supported by

PUBLIC  
PRACTICE

## Plymouth City Council (South West)

Plymouth City Council's Development Management Service forms part of a larger department that also includes other Planning, Transport, Housing and Environmental Planning specialists. There are two area teams who deal with the whole range of planning consents on an area basis plus a team focused specifically on strategic growth projects and also a dedicated technical support team. The culture of the service means that development management staff are far more than case officers and have all embraced the positive planning philosophy of sustained high quality performance and outcomes over many years.

### PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE



#### The judges' comments:

*"This entry is a positive example of a collaborative planning approach with planners working beyond the confines of a specific role to take ownership of and be involved in the wider planning environment. They established a proactive approach to taking sites through the LP process and seeing them through as applications and ensured inclusivity across the day to day aspect of planning, which was considered to be a potential major game changer in terms of planning's role. The judges noted their great work with Plymouth University to support the accreditation of the Planning course and its ongoing delivery."*



# Planning Authority Team of the Year Finalists

Supported by  
**PUBLIC  
PRACTICE**



**Hackney London Borough Council**  
Hackney's Service has demonstrated both resilience and innovation in 2020 despite the global pandemic and a devastating cyberattack on the Council's IT systems.



**London Borough of Barnet**  
Barnet's Enforcement team takes pride in leading the way. Barnet has committed to making planning enforcement a truly innovative, collaborative, prompt and decisive service.

# Small Planning Consultancy of the Year Winner

Sponsored by



## Aurora Planning (Scotland)

Aurora Planning comprises a former local authority head of planning and a qualified lawyer experienced in planning law, offering a range of planning services across Scotland. With a wealth of experience in both public and private sectors, Aurora Planning supports clients through the often complex and controversial planning process, from providing high-level strategic advice at the inception of projects to making detailed representations to planning appeals to achieve optimum outcomes for clients. They also believe everyone should be able to engage effectively with the planning system, so regularly assist community and voluntary organisations pro bono or for a reduced fee.

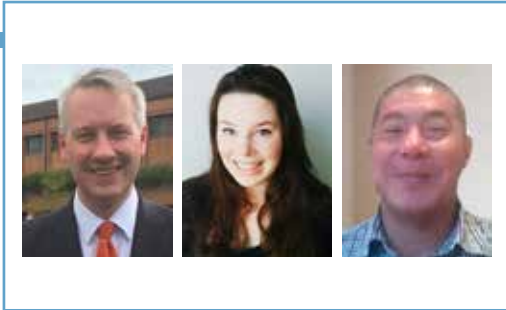


### The judges' comments:

*"Aurora Planning stood out to the judges due to their impressive and inspiring scope of work completed by a team of two within only three years of business. They have provided innovative solutions to unique projects, which has resulted in fantastic client feedback, and the judges liked their multi-disciplinary approach. The judges felt the team brought something different to the table and were blown away by their pro bono work in order to support local groups and the community. Aurora Planning epitomise who a small planning consultancy should be, balancing commercial success with social responsibility."*

# Small Planning Consultancy of the Year Finalists

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## Amos Ellis Consulting (AEC)

AEC is a consultancy that plans great places. They specialise in national infrastructure and complex major projects and the strategy, planning, and permissions they require.



## Collective Planning

Collaboration, integrity and creativity are at the core of Collective Planning. Collective Planning is at the forefront of pushing boundaries to deliver pioneering projects.



## HTA Design LLP

HTA Planning is a niche consultancy, integrated within a multi-disciplinary design practice, specialising in residential-led regeneration and infill projects, complemented by research and thought leadership.



## Hyas Associates

Hyas is a distinctive and exciting town planning, masterplanning and placemaking consultancy focussed on helping deliver great places through the planning system.



## Hybrid Planning & Development Ltd

Established in 2017, female-owned and managed Hybrid Planning & Development is a planning consultancy with personality; a firm that's enjoyable to work with and for.



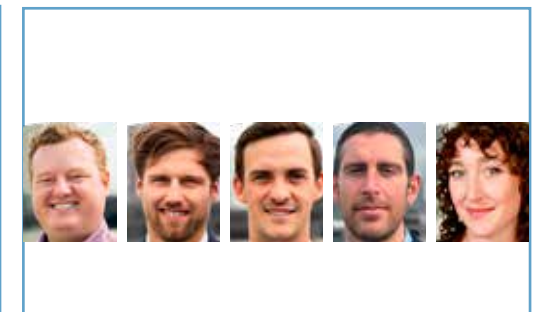
## NTR Planning

In demanding times, and a changing planning environment, NTR Planning brings passion, intelligence and resilience - inspiring confidence in, and accessibility to, planning for all.



## P4 Planning

P4 Planning is a hard working independent consultancy that helps its clients navigate the complex town planning system, expertly delivering their objectives.



## Planning Insight

Planning Insight prides itself on its honest and personal approach to planning issues enabling it to deliver successful results for its clients.

# Planning Consultancy of the Year Winner

Sponsored by



## Iceni Projects (London)

Iceni Projects is a multi-skilled consultancy which prides itself in being disruptive and doing things differently – but doing it in the right way.

At Iceni we believe that everything we do is ultimately about people – and as a consultancy operating within the built environment, we know people need place. At Iceni, we are fortunate to be able to call upon colleagues with a myriad of qualifications, specialisms and backgrounds, from archaeology to transport, operating across the country from four world class cities. What links us all is the belief that we can create better places by working.

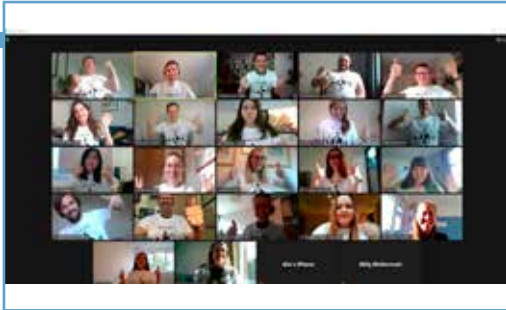


### The judges' comments:

*"The judges said this entry was a breath of fresh air to read. Iceni stood out as different, creative, colourful and innovative. They've not been afraid to break away from the mould and be themselves, having developed their own successful and imaginative approach to clients and staff offering above and beyond what is expected from a large consultancy. The judges were especially impressed by Iceni's tribal ethos, in the sense that they have created a culture which is staff focused and highlights the importance of their wellbeing above all else. Given the current pandemic this is important now more than ever and is something the judges felt other organisations should embrace more"*

# Planning Consultancy of the Year Finalists

Sponsored by



## Deloitte Real Estate

Deloitte Real Estate is a national planning consultancy which delivers complex planning projects and strategies for a range of public and private sector clients.



## Marrons Planning

Marrons Planning are a specialist planning consultancy providing a wide range of services for a vibrant and diverse client base across the UK.



## Pegasus Group

Pegasus Group is a leading development consultancy specialising in planning, design, environment, economics and heritage.



## Savills (UK) Ltd

With over 280 planners across 24 locations, Savills has the expertise to advise on projects of all scales and land use types throughout the UK.



## WSP

WSP's Planning Consultancy team is unique in focusing on people, communities, the built environment and delivering long lasting and impactful solutions to extremely complex problems.

# Planning Heroes in a Pandemic Winner

## Cheltenham Borough Council (South West)

Acting early and at pace to temporarily relax planning controls and taking a creative approach to enforcement has enabled Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) to support local business proactively through Covid-19.

We have implemented a number of Covid-19 planning initiatives, our most impactful being to lead proactive, front loaded planning enforcement enabling temporary structures/buildings to be erected on private and public land, without the need for planning permission, for up to 12 months.

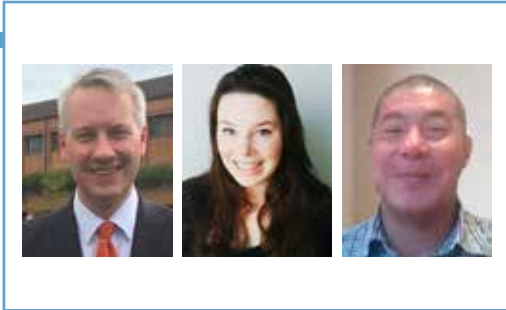
A number of businesses have benefited from this initiative including cafe's, restaurants, pubs, cultural institutions and the NHS, amongst others.



### The judges' comments:

*"The Council has been quick to respond to the crisis and set up approaches to help local businesses through this uncertain period. This includes inviting businesses to approach with ideas and giving a quick turnaround of planning advice (including relaxing the need for planning permission in advance). They have worked with colleagues in Communications to support positive messaging and helping green economy recovery. By enabling greater use of open spaces for business and social uses, they are helping to test ideas which will feed into their new Town Centre Vision. They have also helped with the temporary permissions for Covid-19 related health facilities. Overall, the judges said this was a good demonstration of planning as an enabler and use of temporary solutions to inform the long-term shaping of place."*

# Planning Heroes in a Pandemic Finalists



## AEC

AEC is a consultancy that plans great places. They specialise in national infrastructure and complex major projects and the strategy, planning, and permissions they require.



## Land Use Consultants (LUC)

LUC's GIS and Visualisation team fast-tracked the development of the LUC Consultation Hub and Virtual Consultation Room to allow projects to progress, despite lockdown.



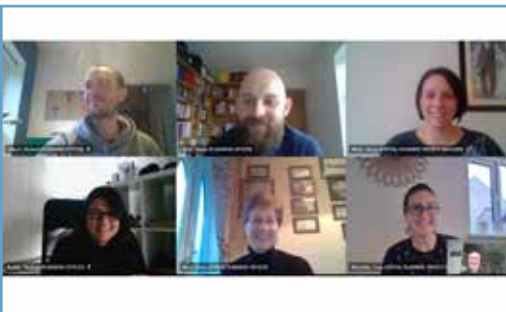
## Michelle Simpson-Gallego from Pegasus Group

Michelle Simpson-Gallego led a team of planners from Pegasus Group on the tracking and reporting of how Local Planning Authorities adapted to the pandemic.



## The Planning Inspectorate

The Inspectorate's facilitation of virtual events: adapting ALL events-based planning casework across England to virtual hosting, enabling fair/robust oral examination of complex casework to continue.



## The Planning Team at Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Planning Heroes during a pandemic is a worthy title for Barnsley's hard-working, experienced, well-motivated and qualified planners.

# Young Planner of the Year Winner

Sponsored by



## Ryan Walker (Northern Ireland)

Ryan Walker is a Planning consultant with a strong drive for high quality design and sustainable placemaking, currently working at The Paul Hogarth Company and delivering transformative projects across the UK and Ireland.

40 Ryan is a strong advocate for the planning profession and the positive role it can play in reducing inequalities and creating inclusive growth. Ryan is currently the Chair of RTPI Northern Ireland Young Planners, Vice-Chair of UK-wide Young Planners network and Corporate Member of RTPI NI Executive Committee.



The Julie Cowans Memorial Trust is delighted to award Ryan with a £1,000 prize to contribute towards his career development.



### The judges' comments:

*"Ryan's enthusiasm, experience and personality shone throughout his interview, displaying his skills as both a planner and a leader. He understood the need to be collaborative with a wide range of professions outside of planning to keep moving forward on key issues, such as climate change, and to improve lives and opportunities for all. The judges were impressed by Ryan's volunteering and reflective approach on his own career to date to helping others develop in theirs. The judges believe Ryan will successfully use the platform that winning this award provides as a springboard to elevate the work he is already successfully doing in local communities, with the RTPI and reaching the next generation of planners."*



# Young Planner of the Year Commended

Sponsored by



## Daniel G Wilson (London)

Dan is extensively involved in the planning and development sector within the West Midlands and South East. Between 2016 and 2020 he served on the West Midlands Young Planners Committee and was Chair in 2020. He was a Planning Aid England volunteer and member of the Regional Activities Committee. Dan specialises in securing consent for sustainable developments that leave a positive lasting impact on neighbourhoods. He is proud to deliver schemes that result in holistic inclusive growth and community transformation. Dan is an avid networker and passionate about promoting the planning profession in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.



### The judges' comments:

*"Daniel is dedicated and passionate about the profession and the judges see him as an agent for change. He is committed to using his platform to ensure there is more equality and diversity in the profession, which the judges agreed is of utmost importance. They admired his strong sense of duty and were impressed by the RTPI's widespread implementation of his event idea for Young Planners: Ask the Experts; demonstrating his impact as Chair of the West Midlands Young Planners Committee. The judges have no doubt Daniel will be driving changes in the profession for many years to come."*

# Young Planner of the Year Finalists

Sponsored by



**Daniel Young**  
**Oxford City Council**

Daniel has enthusiasm and drive, making a difference as a planning policy specialist in climate change and the natural environment, advocating for a sustainable future.



**Emmeline Reynish**  
**Arup**

Emmeline is an ambitious and enthusiastic young planner, passionate about promoting the profession to the next generation.



**Iain MacPherson**  
**Kevin Murray Associates**

Iain represents a new type of planner combining a robust understanding of the planning system with a holistic approach to place and codesign with communities. Image by Graeme McDonald.



**Jeffrey Ng**  
**West Berkshire Council**

Jeffrey's enthusiasm, dedication, commitment is self-evident, he is a local planner with global vision and is a role model for young planners locally and globally.



**Jessica Vaughan**  
**Plymouth City Council**

Jess is a champion of people-focused planning and a highly effective coordinator of key planning processes for three councils collaborating on a joint local plan.



**Laura McCombe**  
**Boyer**

Laura is a Principal Planner at Boyer and is Co-Chair of the East Midlands Women in Planning Branch.



**Rebecca Dewey**  
**WSP**

As a longstanding volunteer and champion of planning; Rebecca's passion for her projects, and commitment to nurturing the next generation, is infectious.

# Silver Jubilee Cup Winner

## Preston City Living Strategy

submitted by Preston City Council and Hive Land & Planning (North West)



Preston City Council, in partnership with Hive Land & Planning, has developed a City Living Strategy, a new model for delivering the vision and policies of the adopted Local Plan. It was recognised that a pro-active approach was required to de-risk residential brownfield sites in Inner Preston to attract private investment. A series of innovative solutions have been implemented to overcome the barriers to delivery. The delivery of these sites will bring transformational housing growth in inner Preston, regenerate neighbourhoods, and have positive benefits for local communities, as well as the physical environment.

### The judges' comments:

*"The team who worked on the Preston City Living Strategy have taken a pro-active approach and have acted beyond boundaries to make positive and impactful improvements to the city. The team introduces innovative mechanisms to involve and engage with the local community, as well as de-risking the deliverables. The human rights impact assessment is a unique addition to the Strategy, that leaves no one behind, setting a really positive tone for how planning can benefit all in a variety of ways. This project is highly relevant to the levelling up agenda for the North and the experience is transferable across the UK. The judges applauded this project as an exemplary case of innovative planning and a worthy winner of the Silver Jubilee Cup."*

# Thank you to the 2021 Awards Judges

## Chair of the Judging Panel:

### **Dyan Currie HonMRTPI**

City of Gold Coast

## Judging Panel:

### **Dr Husam AlWaer MRTPI**

Dundee University

### **Ailsa Anderson MRTPI**

Aberdeenshire Council

### **Joe Ayoubkhani MRTPI**

Barton Willmore

### **Mike Bodkin MRTPI**

TOWN

### **Clive Brook FRTPI**

### **Niall Byrne MRTPI**

Deloitte Ireland

### **Heather Claridge MRTPI**

Architecture + Design Scotland

### **Viral Desai MRTPI**

Atkins

### **Sarah Elliott MRTPI**

AECOM

### **Helen Fadipe MRTPI**

### **Andrew Farrow MRTPI**

Flintshire County Council

### **Julia Frost MRTPI**

PAS/ Scotland International Group

### **Ian Gilbert MRTPI**

Barton Willmore

### **Gareth Giles FRTPI**

Whaleback

### **Alan Goodrum FRTPI**

### **Kath Haddrell MRTPI**

PINS

### **Uyen-Phan Han MRTPI**

Birmingham City Council

### **Colin Haylock FRTPI**

### **Judith Jones MRTPI**

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

### **Justin Kliger**

Connected Places Catapult

### **Abraham Laker MRTPI**

RPS Europe

### **Adele Maher MRTPI**

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

### **Catherine McEvoy MRTPI**

Department for Infrastructure

### **Dee McGrath MRTPI**

Limerick County Council

### **Catharine McWhirter MRTPI**

Lisburn and Castlereagh Council

### **Nikola Miller MRTPI**

The Scottish Government

### **Trovine Monteiro**

South Cambridgeshire District Council

### **Judith Onuh MRTPI**

WSP

### **Lindsey Richards FRTPI**

Homes England

### **Robyn Skerratt MRTPI**

Department for International Development

### **Stefano Smith FRTPI**

Stefano Smith Planning

### **Liberty Stones MRTPI**

Fisher German

### **Jon Suckley FRTPI**

Avison Young

### **Olafiyin Taiwo MRTPI**

### **Andrew Taylor FRTPI**

Countryside Properties

### **Robin Tetlow FRTPI**

Tetlow King Planning

### **Alys Thomas MRTPI**

Wales & West Housing

### **Layla Vidal-Martin MRTPI**

Vistry Partnerships

### **Roger Wilshaw**

Places for People

### **Owain Wyn FRTPI**

Burum

### **RTPI President Wei Yang FRTPI**

Wei Yang and Partners

‘The quality of entries in the awards was outstanding and it was a pleasure to read them and see the quality of work that is occurring on ground. The judges were confident that at a time when the Planning profession and the concept of Planning is even more important than ever before as the world faces significant complex challenges, the judges were confident of the future of the profession.’

**Chair of the Judging Panel**  
**Dyan Currie HonMRTPI**



RTPI AWARDS FOR  
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**2021**



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