

Member Bulletin - August 2025

Dear \$[UD:FIRST_NAME]\$,

Welcome to the August edition of the IPM Bulletin

As we look ahead to a busy autumn and continue preparations for our 20th anniversary in 2026, we're proud to open this edition by celebrating five graduates from the Place Management and Leadership programme at Manchester Metropolitan University - three achieving their MSc and two completing the Postgraduate Diploma. [Read more here.](#)

Their work reflects the growing professionalism and diversity of the sector and forms part of our wider mission to build a skilled, recognised profession for place managers and leaders. You can read more about their achievements in this edition - and if you're inspired, join our next online [taster session on 4th September 2025.](#)

We are preparing for the Second Reading of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, and have published a new blog, co-authored by a group of IPM Senior Fellows and Fellows, to help stimulate further thinking on the implications of the Bill. The blog "[Why Clause 58 of the English Devolution Bill matters for Place Management](#)" explains why the clause could have significant implications for local governance and place-based leadership structures. As part of this work, we have been reaching out to partners to explore how we can work together on influencing the Bill and are in touch with some MPs and Lords sharing early thoughts. As the blog says, we don't have all the answers, but we do know the discussion needs to be had: [Read the blog here.](#)

The UK Government issued the [Backing Your Business](#) paper yesterday. One paragraph in the paper highlights the lack of skills and capacity in local authorities to deliver effective place management - reinforcing the need for IPM focus on building the capacity and capability of the place management sector. We are continuing to accept expressions of interest for a [Chartered Management Degree Place Management Apprenticeship](#), while also beginning a conversation with IPM members about a refreshed CPD framework to support lifelong learning. These developments are central to our goal of creating clear, supported career pathways in place leadership. As part of the CPD offer, we encourage you to visit the [IPM Members' Area](#) to explore the improvements we're making to simplify CPD assessment.

As we build momentum towards our 20th anniversary, every member has a role to play in raising the profile of our profession. Please do proudly display your designation - whether #AIPM, #MIPM, or #FIPM - on LinkedIn and across your social networks to help grow recognition of the place management discipline.

I really enjoyed attending the VISA Let's Celebrate Towns Award ceremony at the Houses of Commons alongside my colleague, Rachel Nickeas. Wallsend, the winner of the High Street Transformation Award, will be joining our Masterclass on Place and Economic Development this September, hosted by Professor Steve Millington. [You can sign up here.](#)

It was great to meet so many IPM members at the event. If we haven't had the chance to connect yet since I joined IPM, please do reach out - I'm always keen to meet more of our members and hear about your work.

Ian Harvey SFIPM
Head of Institute of Place Management

Up and coming events



Postgraduate Courses - Course overview with Dr Chloe Steaman and Professor Mihalis Kavaratzis

- **Date:** Thursday 4th September
- **Time:** 12:30pm - 13:30pm
- **Online**
- Open to IPM members and non-members

[Register here](#)



Masterclass: Place and Economic Development - with Professor Steve Millington

- **Date:** Wednesday 10th September
- **Time:** 11am - 3pm
- **Online**
- Open to IPM members and non-members

[Register here](#)

[Read more details about our events](#)

Celebrating new graduates on our Place Management and Leadership courses

The Institute of Place Management is proud to congratulate five students who have successfully graduated from the Place Management and Leadership programme at Manchester

Metropolitan University this summer - three achieving their MSc and two completing the Postgraduate Diploma. We extend special congratulations to this year's graduates and the dissertation topics of those who graduated with the MSc reflect the diversity and relevance of issues in the field:

- **Kevin Burns** - "Do Local Authorities in Ireland Have the Leadership Capacity to Place Town Centres First?"
- **James Wilson** - "When the Circus Comes to Town: Policy Mobility of the UK City of Culture Competition in Yorkshire and the Humber"
- **Paul Doyle** - "Understanding Retail Vacancy: Ownership, Causes, and Strategy"
- **Ross Grant** (PGDip)
- **John Jones** (PGDip)

Read more [here.](#)

Register Your Interest in a New Apprenticeship Programme

As we celebrate Graduation Week 2025 at Manchester Metropolitan University, the Institute of Place Management is looking to the future - and inviting individuals and organisations to support the next generation of place managers and leaders.

Working with Manchester Metropolitan University's Apprenticeship Team, we are developing a new Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship, designed to create a structured pathway into place-based careers across the country. To launch the programme, we are seeking 30 organisations to register interest in enrolling staff on the first cohort. Thank you to councils and BIDs who have been in touch wanting to get further information!

We're aiming for a September 2026 start. Large employers can use their apprenticeship levy contributions to pay for the cost of the programmes. The government will pay 95% of the programmes fees for smaller organisations who do not pay the apprenticeship levy.

We will be writing at the start of September about an event we are planning to explain more detail on the apprenticeship.

[Read more here.](#)

Making the Most of Your IPM Membership: Supporting Our Community

We recently hosted our latest *Making the Most of Your IPM Membership* webinar, led by Ian Harvey and Rachel Nickeas. The interactive session welcomed both new and long-standing members. Participants from across the UK and overseas - including Kuwait - shared their reasons for joining, ranging from professional recognition to peer learning and access to academic resources.

The session highlighted immediate member benefits, including access to the Members' Area and the Journal of Place Management and Development. It also introduced our thinking about our refreshed CPD programme, which we want to align with IPM's 25 Vitality & Viability Factors and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Workshops in September will help shape a conversation with the sector about what a refreshed CPD offer should look like to support your lifelong learning for 2026 and beyond.

Members can view the recording in the IPM Members' Area and access future events [here](#). You can also see your current CPD points for 2025 too! Get in touch with Rachel Nickeas if you are unsure how to access the members area.

Call for Papers - Proximity Tourism: A New Answer to Overtourism?

Overtourism continues to challenge regions and communities across the globe - from UNESCO World Heritage sites to cultural landscapes under pressure. In response, proximity tourism has emerged as a promising yet complex alternative.

At IPM, we're supporting the forthcoming **Journal of Place Management and Development** special issue, which invites critical perspectives on proximity tourism:

- How can we rethink tourism by encouraging people to experience and reinterpret nearby places?
- What are the opportunities for urban and rural regeneration, social innovation, and sustainable development?
- What risks emerge around 'folklorisation', authenticity, and place resilience?

If you're working on these themes, this is your opportunity to help shape international thinking about the future of tourism, sustainability, and place. Closing date for manuscripts submission: **15th October 2025**.

Full submission details are available on the JPMD website [here](#).

Managing and navigating Manchester's Privately Owned Public Spaces

Place managers across the UK are increasingly dealing with *Privately Owned Public Spaces* (or POPS as they are becoming known as) from city squares and retail plazas to repurposed industrial sites. A new open access article by [Dr Jenny Kanellopoulou](#), [Dr Nikos Ntounis](#) and [Prof Steve Millington](#), explores how these spaces are managed on the ground and what that means for their 'publicness'.

Managing and Navigating Manchester's Privately Owned Public Spaces: Understanding Publicness [is available to read here](#).

The study highlights how day-to-day decisions - about signage, access, behaviour, and maintenance shape how inclusive, accessible, and truly 'public' these spaces feel in practice.

For place managers, this means rethinking how to work with private owners, developers, and communities to ensure POPS contribute to local quality of life and not just commercial performance.

Rethinking Place Management through Blackpool's North Pier

New research by Dr Chloe Steadman and Professor Steve Millington explores how place managers can approach atmospheric qualities more thoughtfully. Drawing on Richard Sennett's concept of 'open forms', the study uses Blackpool's North Pier as a case study, showing how natural elements, layered activities, and informal features like memorial benches can create atmospheres that are rich, unpredictable, and emotionally resonant.

Rather than over-controlling environments through signage, noise, or rigid zoning, the research suggests embracing a little disorder. Porosity, synchronicity, and user co-creation can enrich spaces, while over-management risks sterility.

Place managers are encouraged to allow nature to shape experiences, foster emotional connections through spontaneous features, and invite public interaction through adaptable, incomplete forms. Atmospheres aren't fully controllable - but by remaining flexible and open, managers can support vibrant, engaging places.

[Read the full research on the IPM website here](#).



Your thoughts on current place management and leadership issues as an IPM member

We love showcasing the expertise and insights of our valued members. If you have a story, research, or a project that might interest the wider IPM network, we'd love to hear from you! Whether it's a discussion topic, a LinkedIn feature to highlight your profile, or an update that deserves attention, we're keen to share your contributions.

Additionally, as an IPM member, you gain exclusive access to our members' area—a hub filled with valuable resources, networking opportunities, and industry insights. If you're not yet a member and would like to explore the benefits, feel free to get in touch to discuss membership options.

Let's continue to build connections and celebrate the fantastic work happening across the sector!



We're always keen to know your thoughts on current issues directly via [email](#) and in comments on our LinkedIn social media posts. Thank you for taking the time to read this bulletin, our next issue will be issued in June.

The IPM Team



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