

# Member Bulletin - July 2025

Dear \$[UD:FIRST\_NAME]\$,

This month marks a year since International Practices of Place Management through Multi-Sectoral Partnerships was published - the result of a global collaboration led by Georgetown University's Global Cities Initiative, part of UN-Habitat's World Urban Campaign.

The report spotlighted the Institute of Place Management and the High Streets Task Force as international exemplars. It praised IPM's 4Rs framework - *Repositioning, Reinventing, Rebranding, Restructuring* - and described the High Streets Task Force as "one of the few global experiments in national-level policymaking" focused on building local capacity. [Read more here](#).

As we look ahead to IPM's 20th anniversary in 2026, this international recognition is welcome. But we know there is still much work to do to fully mainstream place management as a recognised and respected profession. That's why we remain committed to a holistic and strategic approach to professionalisation - through education, membership, and continuous learning.

Following a pause due to changes in government policy, Manchester Metropolitan University is now supporting the launch of a two-year *Place Management Apprenticeship*. This programme will equip the next generation of place leaders with the practical, strategic, and collaborative skills needed to deliver lasting local change. To proceed, we need 20–30 apprentices in the first year. If you think someone in your organisation could benefit - or if you'd like to learn more about government funding options - please contact us at [ipm@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:ipm@mmu.ac.uk) for more information.

For those further along in their career, applications are now open for the world's only postgraduate courses in *Place Management and Leadership*, starting January 2026. These part-time, practice-based programmes are ideal for those looking to deepen their expertise and lead with confidence. If you'd like to find out more, we're happy to arrange a one-to-one conversation with the course leader - or you can join our next online taster session on **9th July 2025**.

Aligned with these learning opportunities, we're also developing a clearer CPD framework to support members at every stage of their place management career. Join us at the upcoming *Making the Most of Your Membership* webinar, where we'll outline our plans for CPD, discuss apprenticeship development, and highlight how you can make the most of your IPM designation.

As we build momentum toward our 20th anniversary, every member has a role to play in raising the profile of our profession. Please take a moment to review our Code of Conduct, and do proudly display your designation, be that AIPM, MIPM, and FIPM on social media and LinkedIn to help grow recognition of the discipline.

Together, we can continue to improve places - for everyone, everywhere.

**Ian Harvey SFIPM**  
Head of Institute of Place Management

## Up and coming events



### IPM Webinar - Safety and Security in Place

- **Date:** Tuesday 8th July 2025
- **Time:** 14:00 - 15:30
- **Online**
- Open to IPM members and non-members

[Register here](#)



### Post Graduate Course Taster Session

- **Date:** Tuesday 17th June 2025
- **Time:** 12:00 - 13:00
- **Online**
- Open to IPM members and non-members

[Register here](#)

[Read more details about our events](#)

## Institute of Place Management at the Houses of Parliament



This month, the Institute of Place Management and Manchester Metropolitan University contributed to national conversations on the future of town centres.

On 18th June, Dr Lucy Montague represented Manchester Metropolitan University at a roundtable hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on New Towns. Held in Westminster, the session explored regeneration across the UK's 32 post-war New Towns. Drawing on her experience as a former Special Adviser to the House of Lords Built Environment Select Committee, Dr Montague offered insights into the role of town centre renewal and high street revitalisation in shaping future strategies.

Earlier in the month, IPM Fellow Esther Worboys represented the Institute at the House of Lords in a discussion hosted by the APPG on Healthy Places. The session asked: "How can we put health at the centre of our town centres?" Esther has written a blog reflecting on the discussion and sharing examples of local innovation.

Read more and connect: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/esther-worboys-fipm-10aa8424/>

## Kirsi Eronen on Collaborative Safety Approaches in Turku, Finland

Safety in our city centres goes beyond police presence and traditional enforcement. Increasingly, cities recognise that true safety comes from collaboration - involving local authorities, businesses, residents, and civil society to co-create solutions and support inclusive, thriving spaces.

Turku, on Finland's south-west Baltic coast, offers a valuable example. As the country's oldest city and a former Hanseatic hub, Turku has nearly 800 years of history. With just over 200,000 residents, it is considered large by Finnish standards and continues to grow by more than 4,000 people annually. Turku's approach to safety is rooted in partnership and proactive engagement - with lessons relevant to urban areas of all sizes.

Join us on **Tuesday 8th July, 2:00–3:30pm**, for our *IPM Town Centre Safety Webinar*, featuring Kirsi Eronen from Turku and other international speakers sharing practical strategies for safer, more welcoming places.

[Register for the event here](#)



## The Rise of the TikTok Cities by James Child AIPM

What makes a city stand out in a crowded world? According to James Child AIPM, Head of Research from ING Media, it's not infrastructure plans or economic data - it's the stories people share online.

Speaking to postgraduate students and researchers from the UK, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Australia - during a recent Place Research Seminar, part of the MSc Place Management and Leadership

residential at Manchester Metropolitan University - Child explored how digital conversations are reshaping the perception, competitiveness and performance of cities across Europe.

His central message was clear: digital visibility should not be considered a luxury- it's fundamental to how places thrive. Drawing on billions of online interactions and real world case studies, he demonstrated how culture, events, and platform choice now influence everything from tourism to investment, and from civic pride to place identity. While the direction of causality remains complex, the conclusion is clear -visibility matters.

[Read more here.](#)

## IPM Member Brendan Moffett MIPM Asks: *Who Owns Culture?*

In response to growing concerns, a fan-led review of live music has been launched by Parliament, [chaired by Lord Brennan of Canningtown](#), aiming to address the fragility of the grassroots ecosystem. The review will explore how to make the sector more sustainable - from protecting local venues and supporting emerging artists, to improving safety, enhancing the audience experience, and examining how national and local government can better support live music.

To understand why this matters, we need only look to Sheffield. Just a day after the [House of Lords debated the future of UK music venues](#), and on the heels of the Government's new [Creative Industries Sector Vision](#), a powerful reflection from IPM Member Brendan Moffett reminds us what's at stake. The story of Sheffield's Leadmill, a grassroots cultural institution on the brink of erasure, reveals the fragile reality beneath the headlines.

[Read more here.](#) If you would like to join an IPM working group to responds to the review, please contact us at [ipm@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:ipm@mmu.ac.uk)

## Call for Papers- Placemaking and Sustainability in Africa

Africa's rapid urbanisation, growing inequality (Woyo and Tafirenyika, 2024), and increasing vulnerability to climate change highlight the urgent need for sustainable placemaking. Urban areas across the continent face mounting pressures from population growth, environmental degradation, and socio-economic disparities - yet remain underrepresented in global placemaking discourse.

Most placemaking research has focused on Western contexts, overlooking the unique challenges and opportunities present in African cities. A forthcoming special issue aims to address this gap by exploring how placemaking initiatives across Africa contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals- particularly SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), and SDG 13 (climate action).

The issue will highlight how local, context-specific strategies are building resilience, promoting inclusion, and embedding sustainability in urban life. Researchers, practitioners, and policymakers are invited to contribute insights that support more equitable and sustainable approaches to placemaking in Africa.

[Read more here.](#)

## IPM's Ian Harvey quoted in press release announcing VISA shortlist

Ian Harvey, Head of the Institute of Place Management, has been quoted in the official press release announcing the shortlist for the *Visa Let's Celebrate Towns Award*.



As a member of the judging panel, Ian highlighted the importance of recognising places that are taking creative and community-led approaches to revitalisation. The awards, supported by Visa and a range of national partners, celebrate the resilience and innovation of UK high streets and town centres. The winners will be announced later this month following further judging.

You can read the press release and see the 50 towns shortlisted to win £20,000 [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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