

Member Bulletin - March 2025

Dear \$[UD:FIRST_NAME]\$,

Yesterday, Mark Robinson (Chair of the High Streets Task Force Board) and I met with UK Government Ministers Alex Norris MP (Minister for Local Growth and Building Safety) and Gareth Thomas MP (Minister for Services, Small Businesses, and Exports) to discuss the impact of the High Streets Task Force programme, which concluded in September 2024, and to explore future policy directions. You can see me pictured below with Minister Norris.

The meeting was not just a reflection on the past but also an opportunity to discuss future policy innovations. Ministers expressed strong interest in several key ideas including:

- Ensuring that every high street has a local leadership structure to drive long-term transformation.
- A proposal to introduce apprenticeships in place management within local authorities was met with enthusiasm as a means of building much-needed capacity.
- Acknowledging the value of a central repository of resources and best practice, expressing interest in finding ways to maintain this knowledge. *(Remember that you can access the IPM Members Area, which includes the Journal of Place Management and Development, case studies, and other resources as part of your IPM membership. Be sure to check it out!).*

This was another important step in securing a lasting legacy for the High Street Task Force and ensuring that the Institute of Place Management continues to shape the future of high street policy and practice.

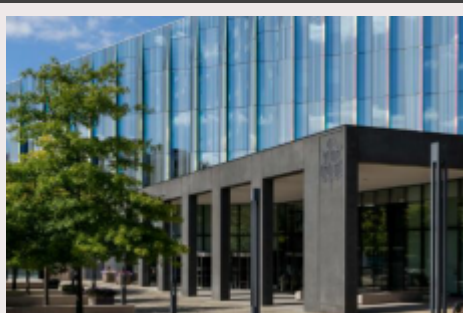
Minister Norris also expressed an interest in visiting an HSTF location, providing an opportunity to showcase the programme's real-world impact and see the success of this type of intervention on the ground. It is why my colleagues are in the process of reaching out to all 150 places we supported and inviting you to participate in a short interview with us to discuss how the support has continued to benefit you. If you have not yet heard from my colleagues, I encourage you to contact Ian Harvey, our new Head of IPM, at iharvey@mmu.ac.uk. This will ensure your inclusion in our ongoing study, which could potentially result in a ministerial visit.



Ian would also be happy to discuss how we can continue to support places through our Vital and Viable programme, as highlighted in this update.



Professor Cathy Parker MBE SFIPM

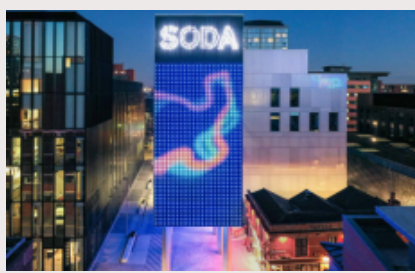


IPM Research Seminar: AI lessons from place management in Nepal

This seminar explores how attention to language using AI tools can facilitate place management. It draws insight from a recent research project that considered how UK temporary architecture projects could inform the delivery of disaster recovery temporary settlements in Nepal.

- **Date:** Thursday 27th March
- **Time:** 15:30 - 17:00
- **Attendance:** In person, Business School, Manchester Metropolitan University
- Open to all

[Register your place today](#)



IPM Event: Stunner - A film screening premier

Join us in person for the Manchester premier of **Stunner**, a film about Ukraine, love, war, fashion, football, and Macclesfield.

- **Date:** Friday 28th March
- **Time:** 14:30 - 16:30
- **Attendance:** In person, SODA, Manchester Metropolitan University
- Open to all

[Register your place today](#)



IPM Webinar: Place Management in Australia

The Institute of Place Management is continuing to expand its international reach, and we are delighted to announce our upcoming Australia IPM Research Seminar on 30th April 2025. This event, co-hosted by Dr Lynette Washington from the University of South Australia will bring together leading experts to explore place-based perspectives on economic development, governance, and community transformation.

- **Date:** Wednesday 30th April
- **Time:** 1am - 2.30am (GMT)
- **Attendance:** Online
- Open to IPM members and non-members

[Register your place today](#)

[Read more details about our events](#)

IPM Conducts Place Quality Audit in North West Leicestershire



Professor Steve Millington recently visited North West Leicestershire to conduct a Place Quality Audit, supporting efforts to enhance the area's public spaces and economic vitality.

The audit aligns with IPM's framework of 25 Place Priorities, ensuring a structured approach to evaluating economic resilience, placemaking, and community well-being. By identifying strengths and areas for improvement, the audit will help shape future place-based strategies.

Professor Millington's visit forms part of IPM's broader on-going work with local authorities and

place leaders to ensure places have practical, data-driven insights that enhance the place in their area.

If you are interested finding out how we can support your place, visit [IPM's website](#).

Pictured (l-r): Barry Walford and Tom Stanyard (both from North West Leicestershire Council), and Prof. Steve Millington.

IPM study influencing Short-Term Rental Legislation in Slovenia

Short-term rentals (STRs) have emerged as an international issue, impacting cities globally by reducing In October last year, [Dr Nikos Ntounis](#) and [Dr Jenny Kanellopoulou](#) secured a bid to advise the Slovenian Ministry for Tourism, Sport, and the Economy ahead of preparing a bill on the regulation of STRs. They conducted research on the regulation of STRs across Europe and internationally, focusing specifically on the impacts of existing legislation. As the bill moves through the Slovenian Parliament, the research has attracted considerable attention, featuring prominently in national media debates. We will write more as the bill progresses.

You can see some of the news coverage below:

- [Government approves proposal to limit short-term rental of apartments](#)
- [Co-founder lobby unsuccessful for now, bill goes to government](#)

Celebrating the vital role of bookshops on World Book Day!

On World Book Day, we highlighted key findings from IPM and Heartflood LTD's research, commissioned by The Booksellers Association in 2022.

Led by [Chris Gregory](#), [Dr Regine Sønderland Saga](#), and [Professor Cathy Parker MBE](#), the study explored how bookshops enhance high street vitality, drive local engagement, and strengthen communities. Bookshops are more than retail spaces - they are placemakers, bringing diversity, quality, and purpose to town centres. Their resilience and adaptability are crucial to high street regeneration

Read 'Booksellers as Placemakers The Contribution of Booksellers to the Vitality and Viability of High Streets' via: <https://lnkd.in/e5NxnqNA>.

Upcoming Australia IPM Research Seminar – 30th April 2025

The Institute of Place Management is continuing to expand its international reach, and we are delighted to announce our upcoming [Australia IPM Research Seminar on 30th April 2025](#). This event will bring together leading experts to explore place-based perspectives on economic development, governance, and community transformation. This seminar marks another important step in strengthening Place Management in Australia, building on IPM's pre-COVID engagement and reinforcing our commitment to supporting place professionals globally.

Read more about this event and the speakers here.

Building Effective Place Partnerships for Town Centre Regeneration

Last month, we hosted an insightful IPM webinar on the role of place partnerships in driving town centre regeneration. With a fantastic line-up of speakers, we explored real-world examples of partnerships making a tangible difference, backed by research from the High Streets Task Force and Manchester Metropolitan University. We brought together place leaders from Ashton-in-Makerfield, Liscard in Wirral, and Hamlet Court Road in Westcliff-on-Sea, Southend to showcase best practice.

One of the key takeaways was that place partnerships cannot be forced - they must grow organically, driven by local stakeholders who know their communities best. Research from Dr. Michael Sewell and Afroditi Kazakou highlighted that the most successful partnerships are built on trust, visible action, and clear storytelling that connects past, present, and future. These partnerships don't just address immediate challenges; they provide a long-term framework for economic resilience.

Read more about the [academic study on place partnerships](#). If you are an IPM member, you can also rewatch the Place Partnerships session in the [IPM Members Area](#).

IPM meets with CEO of the Regional Studies Association

It was a pleasure to welcome Alan Kinder, CEO of the [Regional Studies Association](#) to the IPM recently to meet with Prof Steve Millington and Ian Harvey. We explored opportunities for deeper collaboration between our organisations to provide enhanced support to the academics and practioners in our networks. The Regional Studies Association has a global network of members spanning 80 countries and an active events programme.

One of their upcoming events is co-hosted by [The Manchester Metropolitan University's](#) and IPM's [Dr Jenny Kanellopoulou](#), which will explore the intersection of law and place.

We encourage IPM members to attend. You can sign up free via: <https://lnkd.in/ezZkqP7Y>.

Your thoughts on current place management and leadership issues

Your thoughts on current place management and leadership issues Could you contribute an 800-word think piece on a topic of interest to place managers and leaders? Perhaps something based on a project you're running, or the challenges faced by our places.

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 April.

The IPM Team



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