

# Member Bulletin - October 2025

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

## Welcome to the October edition of the IPM Bulletin

The past few weeks have been about connecting research, policy, and practice. We've been sharing research from academics across Manchester Metropolitan University on high streets, the economic impacts of climate change, and the pressures of short-term rentals on housing, while also contributing to the national debate at the UK Labour Conference and speaking at events across the country to ensure the voice of professional place management is heard in the UK's current devolution discussions.

It was also encouraging to see the UK Government's new [Pride in Place Strategy](#), which recognises the importance of people and partnerships in shaping stronger communities. If you are in an area set to receive Pride in Place support, please do get in touch - we would greatly value your perspectives.

We have also recently completed our work with [North West Leicestershire District Council](#), helping places to develop evidence-led action plans. This is exactly the type of support that we, and our wider expert network, can provide to places across the country.

Alongside this, we are making progress on several initiatives, from shaping the new Degree Apprenticeship in Place Management to expanding our CPD offer and strengthening collaborations both in the UK and internationally.

Each step takes us closer to delivering our mission: excellent research with impact, excellent education, and stronger places for communities everywhere.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our work - whether by hosting [Dr Ilze Mertena](#) on visits, contributing to the [Journal of Place Management and Development](#), or speaking at events. Together, you are helping us connect a global network of place professionals, practices, and ideas.

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

## Up and coming events



### Postgraduate Courses - Course overview Professor Steve Millington

- **Date:** Thursday 7th October
- **Time:** 11:00am - 11:45pm
- **Online**
- Open to IPM members and non-members

[Register here](#)



### Continuing Professional Development webinar with IPM

- **Date:** Tuesday 14th October
- **Time:** 12 noon- 1.30pm
- **Online**
- Open to IPM members and non-members

[Register here](#)

[Read more details about our events](#)

## Explore a New Apprenticeship Pathway into Place-Based Careers



Manchester Metropolitan University and the Institute of Place Management are developing a new Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship in Place Management, aimed at those working in regeneration, placemaking, town centre management, and local economic development.

The programme blends study with real-world projects, providing a funded "earn and learn" route for employers (levy-funded for large organisations and heavily subsidised for SMEs). A first intake is planned for September 2026.

During a recent webinar, Jo Carney (Head of Apprenticeship Business Development at MMU) explained how the university partners with employers to deliver impactful apprenticeships, while Ian Harvey (Head of IPM) set out how we see the apprenticeship fitting within IPM's pathway of professional development - from apprenticeship through to MSc, CPD and Fellowship. [Chris Gregory, a Fellow of the Institute of Place Management](#) and High Streets Task Force Expert, presented perspectives on the apprenticeship, drawing on over 25 years of experience in the field and his current PhD research into the professionalisation of place management. and [Jeroen Roose-van Leijen](#), a current MSc student from the Netherlands, showcased the [Centrum Management Academy](#) model - short, intensive training backed by an active alumni network, peer coaching, and masterclasses.

We are now forming a working group of employers and practitioners to help shape the apprenticeship, and seeking 30 organisations to register interest in enrolling staff for the first cohort.

[Watch the information session](#) and if you are interested in joining our apprenticeship development working group, contact Ian Harvey at [ijpm@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:ijpm@mmu.ac.uk).

### IPM Statement on the UK Government's 'Pride in Place' Programme

The Institute of Place Management welcomes the Government's new Pride in Place programme, which rightly recognises that high streets, town centres, and community assets are central to restoring local pride and tackling inequality.

While new powers and funding for communities are positive, our research shows that success depends on skilled local capacity, strong partnerships, and long-term support. IPM is calling on Government to invest not only in legislation and funding, but also in the training and professional structures communities need to use these powers effectively.

Read our full response via: [Institute of Place Management - Pride in Place announcement](#)

### High streets don't just function - they feel

Research by Dr [Chloe Steadman](#) and [Loretta Lipworth](#) explores how creative and sensory methods - from drawing and photography to smellwalks and soundwalks - can capture the emotional and multisensory atmospheres of our high streets.

Why does this matter? Because how a high street feels influences footfall, dwell time, spend, and ultimately community pride.

Read the research and access the practical guides here: <https://lnkd.in/e3xkFiSE>

We are interested in hearing from community groups and BIDs who would be interested in using the guides as we consider alternative ways of measuring high street success. Get in touch at [ipm@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:ipm@mmu.ac.uk)

### Tourism and housing - finding balance in place

Short-term rentals such as AirBnB and [Vrbo](#) can expand access to tourist accommodation, but they also create tensions in place - from rising rents and housing scarcity to the displacement of local communities.

Slovenia has seen a 500% increase in STR listings since 2015, particularly in Ljubljana, Piran, and Alpine Slovenia. While STRs offered a short-term fix for tourism growth, they created long-term pressures on local housing markets.

Researchers from the Institute of Place Management, [Manchester Law School](#), and [Manchester School of Architecture \(MSA\)](#) worked with the Slovenian Ministry for Tourism, Sport, and the Economy to address these challenges. This research shows how place management can directly inform policy, law, and sustainable transformation, ensuring that both residents and visitors benefit from thriving, liveable places.

Read the report via: <https://lnkd.in/erHDnYqK>

### Why hotter summers are bad for the UK economy

New research by Dr [Lotanna Ernest Emediegwu, PhD, FHEA, MNES](#) (Senior Lecturer in Economics at The Manchester Metropolitan University ), [Jubril ANIMASHAUN](#) (Manipal Academy of Higher Education) and [Verónica Vienne Arancibia](#) (University of Huddersfield) highlights the growing economic costs of hotter summers in the UK.

While sunny weather can boost retail and leisure spending, prolonged heatwaves damage crops, strain health systems, disrupt transport and reduce productivity in offices, factories and farms. The south of England, home to much of the country's farming and financial services, is especially vulnerable.

The study finds that a 1°C rise in average summer temperatures reduces UK economic growth by around 2.4%.

For place managers, the findings underline that climate change is not a distant risk but a present challenge. Hot summers already affect footfall, business continuity, housing and infrastructure. Town centres and local authorities will need to plan for shaded public realm, cooling hubs, resilient transport systems and workplace protections. BIDs and councils may also need to engage with local businesses on adaptation strategies.

Read the full story [here](#).

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### Place Quality Audits launched in North West Leicestershire

We were delighted to support North West Leicestershire District Council as they launched their new Vitality Fund this week, with the first event taking place in Coalville.

Ahead of the launch, the Institute of Place Management completed place quality audits for six high streets across the district. These independent audits provide an objective assessment of how high streets are performing - not only in terms of function, but also the quality of the experience for businesses, residents, and visitors.

By providing a clear evidence base, the audits are helping to inform how local communities and stakeholders would like to see the new Vitality Fund directed. The aim is to ensure that investment decisions are rooted in local priorities and that funds support long-term vitality and resilience.

If your organisation would like to commission place quality audits or learn more about how IPM can support your local high streets, please get in touch with us at [ipm@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:ipm@mmu.ac.uk).

Read more about the support we offered North West Leicestershire and how we can support your high street and town centre [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 November.

### The IPM Team



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