



Government
Events

The Future of British High Streets and Town Centres Conference 2020

Thursday 23rd January
Event Guide





Our Loyalty Discount

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How to Claim Your CPD Points

Regarding CPD credits, it is the individual delegate's responsibility to evaluate their learning and record it appropriately into their CPD portfolios according to your institute's requirements.

For this Conference, you are entitled to 8 CPD points.



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Welcome Letter

Dear Delegate,

Welcome to The Future of British High Streets and Town Centres Conference 2020.

High Streets have been at the heart of our communities for centuries. However, as the way in which we shop changes, High Streets have struggled to keep up. According to the Office for National Statistics, online sales have increased by 600% in the past 12 years whilst in-store sales have struggled to maintain pace. Indeed, in the first half of 2019, 2,870 shops closed across the UK, this amounts to 16 units being vacated every day.

This event will provide an invaluable opportunity for attendees to gain updates on the future of support for high street regeneration from senior policymakers and hear the latest funding opportunities available. Participants will also engage with a range of best practice local authorities who are implementing innovative solutions through a series of insightful case studies and discussions.

If you have any questions or queries please ask our onsite management team, who will be more than happy to help you. They are located at the registration desk.

We hope you have a rewarding and enjoyable day.

Yours Truly,

David Blake
Government Events



Our Future Events

Please look at our website, www.GovernmentEvents.co.uk,
to view our future events. These include:

[Local Government Commercialisation 2020: Generation Income to Support More Effective Public Services](#)

Tuesday 3rd March 2020, Central London

[Road to Zero Conference 2020: Developing Greener Roads for the Future](#)

Tuesday 24th March 2020, Central London

[Delivering Innovative Transport and Infrastructure for a Modern Britain](#)

Thursday 14th May 2020, Central London

[The National Climate Change Conference 2020: Securing Our Future](#)

Thursday 26th November 2020, Central London

For any enquiries, please call 0330 0584 285 or email Enquiries@governmentevents.co.uk

*Programme Subject to Change



Agenda AM

- 09:00-09:50 **Registration, Refreshments and Networking**
- 09:50-10:00 **Chair's Welcome Address**
Graham Galpin, Expert Advisory Panel on High Streets
- 10:00-10:20 **Keynote Address: The Current State of Our High Streets: An Overview From the British Retail Consortium**
Dominic Curran, Policy Advisor – Property, High Streets Lead, British Retail Consortium
- 10:20-10:40 **Keynote Address: Utilising Planning Powers to Foster an Environment in Which Regeneration and Revitalisation is Encouraged**
Victoria Hills, Chief Executive, Royal Town Planning Institute
- 10:40-11:00 **Question and Answer Session**
- 11:00-11:20 **Refreshment and Networking Break**
- 11:20-11:40 **Keynote Address: Launching the High Streets Task Force: Supporting Local Leaders in Revitalising High Streets**
Dr Steve Millington, Director, Institute of Place Management
- 11:40-12:00 **Case Study: The Shrewsbury Big Town Plan – Co-Creating A Collective Vision And Plan For The County Town Of Shropshire**
Gemma Davies, Head of Economic Growth, Shropshire Council, Board Director, Shrewsbury Business Improvement District

Seb Slater, Executive Director, Shrewsbury Business Improvement District
- 12:00-12:20 **Question and Answer Session**
- 12:20-13:20 **Lunch and Networking**
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Agenda PM

13:20-13:40

Case Study: Diversifying Town Centre Offerings in Trafford, Maximising Potential and Building Collaborations

CLlr James Wright, Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration, Trafford Council

13:40-14:00

Keynote Address: Historic High Streets: Using Local Heritage to Help Regenerate High Streets

Owain Lloyd-James, Head of Places Strategy, Historic England

14:00-14:20

Case Study: Putting Together a Successful Bid for the Future High Street Fund Shortlist: Dartford Borough Council

Councillor Jeremy Kite MBE, Leader, Dartford Borough Council

14:20-14:40

Question and Answer Session

14:40-15:00

Refreshment and Networking Break

15:00-15:20

Case Study: Collaborating with the Third Sector to Reduce Vacancy Rates and Reinvigorate High Streets

Diana Grisales, Project Director, Meanwhile Space

15:20-15:40

Case Study: The Open Doors Pilot Project: Leading on a Community Space Transformation Project in Rochford

Shaun Scrutton, Managing Director, Rochford District Council

15:40-16:00

Question and Answer Session

16:00

Chair's Summary and Close

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Speaker Biographies

Graham Galpin

Expert Advisory Panel on High Streets

Graham has been leading regeneration programmes for almost 25 years. He was an economic development consultant before he spent 8 years as Cabinet Member for Town Centres for Ashford Borough Council.

In recognition of the success of Ashford town in turning around a significant decline he was invited to join the Expert Panel brought together by Jake Berry MP and Chaired by Sir John Timpson. The panel recommended the introduction of the Future High Street Fund and the High Street Task Force. Most recently Graham has been working with IPM and partners on the processes and tools for the Task Force. In addition, he is working with Power to Change Trust to encourage communities and local authorities to work in partnership to revitalise their high streets.



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10:00-10:20

Dominic Curran

Policy Advisor – Property, High Streets Lead, British Retail Consortium

Dominic is responsible for all property-related issues for the British Retail Consortium, ranging from business rates to the future of high streets and landlord and tenant law. He has several years' experience working on property and land matters, having been closely involved in policy development at the Greater London Authority under two Mayors. Prior to this he has had extensive experience of lobbying Government, both working on behalf of local authorities on housing and planning matters as well as six years working in Parliament.



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10:20 – 10:40

Victoria Hills

Chief Executive, Royal Town Planning Institute

Victoria joined the RTPI in April 2018 and utilises her 21 years' experience and expertise in the fields of planning, transport and organisational leadership and development to drive forward the vision and strategic priorities for the 25,000 member strong RTPI.

Victoria previously worked for all three Mayors of London and was Chief Executive Officer of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation, where she established the UK's second Mayoral Development Corporation.

As Chief Executive of the RTPI, Victoria uses the convening role of the Institute to make the case for resourcing planning and advocating the important role of putting planning at the heart of government delivery for the quality places that people want to live in. Driving forward the RTPI's new Corporate Strategy will see a focus on raising the profile of planning, elevating the value of professionalism, and promoting a diverse and inclusive profession to ensure genuine representation of the society in which we work.



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11:20 -11:40

Dr Steve Millington

Director, Institute of Place Management

Dr Steve Millington is a Director of Institute of Place Management (the IPM), who has worked on key research projects concerning high street revitalisation in the UK, including the ESRC funded High Street UK 2020, and Innovate funded Bringing Big Data to Small Users. He is lead author of influential reports including Multifunctional Centres, and High Street 2030, the report which informed the recommendations of Sir John Timpson's High Streets Expert Panel. With PwC, the IPM is now co-ordinating the UK government's High Streets Taskforce.



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11:40-12:00

Gemma Davies

Head of Economic Growth, Shropshire Council, and Board Director, Shrewsbury Business Improvement District

Gemma joined Shropshire Council in 2017 to head up the Economic Growth service after spending 12 years working in the public sector in the North West. She is responsible for the delivery of the Economic Growth Strategy, with a key focus on driving economic productivity, supporting businesses and encouraging inward investment. Gemma and her team work with multiple partnerships and stakeholders to deliver this. She is involved in a number of strategic projects and the team are also responsible for the Local Plan and regulatory planning functions. Gemma is a Director for Shrewsbury BID and member of the Big Town Plan Partnership.

Seb Slater

Executive Director, Shrewsbury Business Improvement District

Seb leads the work of Shrewsbury BID which is investing £2.5m into promoting Shrewsbury and delivering innovative projects to support the business community and enhance the town centre experience. Seb is a member of the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Board and Shropshire Business Board. Before relocating to Shrewsbury in 2017, Seb worked in regeneration within London's East End and setup a number of social enterprises including the award-winning Yurt Cafe. Seb is a member of the Institute of Place Management, an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and graduate of the Schumacher College Leadership Programme.



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13:20-13:40

Cllr James Wright

Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration, Trafford Council

Born in Wolverhampton in the West Midlands, went to University in Manchester and studied Politics. Following University, I went to work for Manchester City Council in the Housing Benefit department before going to work for Mary Creagh MP, in Wakefield. Since 2010, I have worked for a Registered Provider of Social Housing and now manage a Welfare Rights team and lead on social policy for the group.

I was elected as a Labour Councillor in Trafford in 2016 and became the Executive member for Investment, Regeneration and Strategic Planning in 2018 when we took control of the council. I was re-appointed to the Executive in 2019 as the member for Housing and Regeneration.

Part of my executive portfolio is to lead for the council on town centres, this obviously includes Altrincham where I have been on the board of the local BID for 2 years.



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13:40-14:00

Owain Lloyd-James

Head of Places Strategy, Historic England

Owain Lloyd-James MCifA is Head of Places Strategy at Historic England. He was responsible for developing the strategic case for the High Streets Heritage Action Zones programme, the £95m fund aimed at regenerating historic high streets in England. He is also responsible for implementing Historic England's Places Strategy.

He started his professional life as an archaeologist. After which he worked for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport working largely on policy related to portable cultural property. Since joining English Heritage (now Historic England) in 2007, he has been responsible for the co-ordination and development of work with local government and national infrastructure, and undertaking research looking at the impact of development on the historic environment.



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14:00 – 14:20

Councillor Jeremy Kite MBE

Leader, Dartford Borough Council

Jeremy Kite has been Leader of Dartford Borough Council since 2006 and a Member of Kent County Council since June 2009, where he is a Deputy Cabinet Member.

Jeremy is a Director of Dartford Football Club and is involved with several local charities and groups. He has a particular interest in civic design and has worked with designer Wayne Hemingway on a housing development at The Bridge, Architect Ken Shuttleworth on the creation of the Dartford Dojo and his Council was responsible for commissioning the ecological award winning football stadium at Princes Park.

In 2015 he was appointed to the Board of Ebbsfleet Development Corporation by the Secretary of State.

He was awarded an MBE in 2012.



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15:00 – 15:20

Diana Grisales

Project Director, Meanwhile Space

Diana is a projects director of the pioneering organisation Meanwhile Space CIC, at the forefront of 'meanwhile uses' of redundant property and sites, while a commercial solution is sought.

Diana specialises in High street regeneration, trader and stakeholder engagement, training and support, town team development, visual merchandising, mentoring small businesses, complex project management, space and tenant management, developing sustainable business models. As a seasoned retail consultant Diana has designed and delivered innovative business support programmes in many Outer London Boroughs.

Diana's background in fine arts, design, international logistics and retail consultancy, in both the private and public sector, forms her unique and well-rounded approach to regeneration projects. Diana currently oversees projects in Waltham Forest, Haringey, Lewisham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Westminster and Lambeth.



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15:20 – 15:40

Shaun Scrutton

Managing Director, Rochford District Council

Shaun Scrutton has worked for Rochford District Council for many years than he cares to remember and was a Director prior to becoming Managing Director in 2016. Shaun's long career in local government has focussed on strategic projects and initiatives, and he was the Chief Planning Officer for Rochford for 15 years. He has taken a lead role in promoting the economic benefits of London Southend Airport (within the district) and its related Airport Business Park for Rochford and is currently working closely with colleagues in south Essex on a range of initiatives to promote the potential of the area through the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA). Rochford district has two market towns each of which has experienced somewhat contrasting fortunes over the last 10 years or so. Rayleigh has continued to thrive despite the structural changes taking place in retail, but Rochford has not been so fortunate and the Council has been working with the parish council, chambers of trade and others to find ways to develop a new future for the town.



Delegate List

Alzheimer's Society, *Programme Partnerships - External Relations Manager*
Arun District Council, *Regeneration Manager*
Arun District Council, *Littlehampton Town Centre Manager*
Belfast City Council, *Senior Development Manager*
Birmingham City Council, *Principal Development Planning Officer*
CBRE, *Director Building Consultancy Project Management CBRE*
Chard Town Council, *Town Clerk*
Coventry City Council, *Strategic Lead, Planning and Regulation*
Coventry City Council, *Deputy Chief Executive - PLACE*
Denbighshire County Council, *Business Support & Networking Officer*
Dudley Council, *Visitor Economy Development Officer*
Durham County Council, *Regeneration Projects Manager*
East Lindsey District Council, *Secretary Mablethorpe CCT*
East Suffolk Council, *Project Manager*
East Suffolk Council, *Head of Economic Development & Regeneration*
East Suffolk Council, *Funding Manager*
East Suffolk Council, *Planning Policy and Delivery Manager*
Eastleigh Borough Council, *Strategic Lead Economy*
Epping Forest District Council, *Museum Heritage and Culture Specialist*
Epping Forest District Council, *Performance Improvement Officer*
Fylde Council, *Regeneration Manager*
Fylde Council, *Principal Regeneration Officer*
Gloucester City Council, *Head of Place*
Gloucester City Council, *City Growth & Delivery Manager*
Guildford Borough Council, *Head of Economy & Innovation*
Haringey Council, *Town Centre Regeneration Officer*
Haringey Council, *Head of Area Regeneration (South Tottenham)*
Horsham District Council, *Corporate Project Manager*
Horsham District Council, *Senior Planning Officer*
Hull City Council, *Assistant Project Manager*
Leicestershire County Council, *Creative Learning Services Manager*
Liverpool City Council, *Investment manager*
London Borough of Lewisham, *Transport Policy & Development Manager*
London Borough of Waltham Forest, *Director of Planning*
Luton Borough Council, *Project Design & Delivery Manager*
Luton Borough Council, *Property Investment and Acquisition Manager*
Mansfield District Council, *Landscape Policy Officer*
Mansfield District Council, *Head of Neighbourhood Services*
Mansfield District Council, *Team leader Place and wellbeing*
Mansfield District Council, *Town Centres and Markets Manager*
Marie Curie, *Volunteering Business Partner - Retail*
Newcastle City Council, *Retail Core Transformation Programme Manager*
North Devon Hospice, *Head of Retail*
North Tyneside Council, *Senior Manager Regeneration*
Office for National Statistics, *Retail Sales Branch Head*
Office for National Statistics, *Assistant Deputy Director*
Oldham Council, *Head of Regeneration and Development*
Portsmouth City Council, *Head of Acquisition and Disposal*



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Red Cross, *Regional Retail Manager*
Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, *Economic Prosperity Officer*
RHS, *Community Development Manager*
Rother District Council, *Regeneration Officer*
Royal Horticultural Society, *Director of Shows*
Royal Voluntary Service, *Head of Retail Operations*
Rugby Borough Council, *Head of Corporate Resources*
Rugby Borough Council, *Construction Project Manager*
Rushmoor Borough Council, *Head of Economy, Planning and Strategic Housing*
Rushmoor Borough Council, *Executive Head of Regeneration and Property*
Ryedale District Council, *Programme Director for Economic Development, Business and Partnerships*
Shelter, *Assistant Director of Retail & Commercial*
SIB Group, *Policy Coordinator*
South Gloucestershire Council, *Asses and Infrastructure Group Manager*
South Holland District Council, *Project Manager*
Southampton City Council, *Councillor*
St. Francis Hospice Shops Ltd, *Director of retail and trading*
Staffordshire County Council, *Cabinet Member for Commercial*
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, *Head of Development and Regeneration*
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, *Development Manager*
Sustrans Scotland, *Design Manager*
Thanet District Council, *Strategic Planning Officer*
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, *Graduate Surveyor*
Wakefield MDC, *City Centre Officer*
Wakefield MDC, *Senior Development Manager - Economic Growth and Skills*
Wandsworth Borough Council, *Business and Enterprise Manager (Wandsworth)*
Wealden District Council, *Planning Policy Manager*
Wealden District Council, *Strategic & Commercial Development Project Co-ordinator*
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, *Engagement and Event Officers*
West Lindsey District Council, *Executive Director of Economic & Commercial Growth*
Westminster City Council, *Programme Director, Church Street*
Westminster City Council, *Programme Manager, Retail & Markets*
Winchester City Council, *Strategic Director*
Winchester City Council, *Corporate Head of Engagement*
Winchester City Council, *Service Lead Economy & Tourism*
Wokingham Borough Council, *Assistant Director, Commercial Property*
Wokingham Borough Council, *Head of Development - Commercial Property*
Wokingham Borough Council, *Freelance Location and Data Analytical Consultant*
Wyre Council, *Senior Planning Officer*
Wyre Council, *Economic Development Officer*



Thank you for attending our conference.

We hope you found the day interesting and insightful. Speaker presentations will be made available to download on completing the post show survey which will be emailed to you within one week after the event.

We wish you a safe journey home.

Government Events, 90 Long Acre, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 9RZ
T: 0330 0584285 W: www.GovernmentEvents.co.uk