

CONFERENCE



# Planning and Development Conference 2025

Shaping Tomorrow's Planning Agenda: Policy, Power & Practical Delivery

Tuesday, 7th October, 2025

RICS HQ, 12 Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AD

**Type of event**

Face to face

**CPD Hours**

5.5  
Formal

Held at the historic RICS HQ, the Planning and Development Conference 2025 arrives at a pivotal moment—just over a year into a new Labour government and ahead of key local elections. This one-day event brings together leaders from across planning, housing, and infrastructure to explore how political, legal, and technological shifts are transforming the built environment.

Delegates will hear expert insights on Labour's evolving planning agenda, changes to the NPPF, and the far-reaching implications of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill. Legal specialists will provide updates on key risks and reforms, while political analysts examine how local power dynamics, devolution and urban priorities are reshaping planning outcomes.

The programme features high-impact panels on new town delivery, digital transformation in planning, and the future of housing across party lines—including perspectives from political representatives and YIMBY voices. Designed for both public and private sector professionals, this conference offers a unique opportunity to stay ahead of policy change, gain strategic clarity, and connect with peers tackling today's most urgent planning challenges.



## Time zone:

BST

8:00

### Arrival and registration

9:00

### Welcome and opening remarks

Speaker(s): Faraz Baber FRICS MRTPI, Chief Operating Officer, Lanpro

9:10

### One year on: Where Labour is driving the agenda and fostering the movement behind delivery

A strategic overview of Labour's approach to planning reform one year into government. The address will consider how policy is being shaped to accelerate housing delivery, reform planning structures, and empower local authorities, with a forward look at what to expect in the year ahead.

Speaker: Chris Curtis MP, Member of Parliament for Milton Keynes North & Member, Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

9:40

### Legal and policy directions in planning

A comprehensive analysis of recent legal and policy developments affecting the planning system. The session will examine the implications of changes to the NPPF, strategic planning reform, the role of judicial review, and emerging legal risks for developers, local authorities, and consultants.

Speaker: Meeta Kaur, Partner, Town Legal

10:20

### Morning coffee break



## Time zone:

BST

10:50

### **New town and new settlement delivery – What does it mean in practice?**

A timely discussion on land use, sustainability, and growth. Panellists will address the political, financial, and planning complexities of Green Belt reviews, and examine the potential and challenges of delivering new towns under evolving policy conditions.

Speaker: Fiona Fletcher-Smith, Group Chief Executive, L&Q

Stefan Webb, Principal Partner, Place and Infrastructure, TPXimpact

11:50

### **Planning and Infrastructure Bill – Progress and impact**

An in-depth session on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, evaluating its provisions, implementation timeline, and potential impact on housing targets, infrastructure planning, and investment confidence.

Speaker: Tony Mulhall, Senior Specialist, RICS

12:30

### **Lunch & networking**

13:30

### **Digital and data in planning**

This panel will explore how government initiatives to digitise planning, emerging technologies, smart infrastructure, and the role of spatial data in improving decision-making and transparency.

Speaker(s): Andy Williams, Chief Operating Officer, LandClan

14:30

### **Navigating shifting priorities in local authorities**

This session offers an analysis of the evolving political context shaping local planning decisions. It will explore how the rise of minority parties, changing voter priorities, and political dynamics are influencing local agendas, reshaping governance structures, and altering the balance of power in planning policy.

Speaker(s): Nick Kilby, Executive Chairman, Cratus Group



## Time zone:

BST

15:20

### Afternoon coffee break

15:50

### **Building consensus: The future of housing across the political spectrum**

As housing challenges intensify across the country, political parties are offering sharply different visions for how to address affordability, supply, and livability. This panel brings together representatives from various parties and their YIMBY movements for a candid, solutions-focused discussion on the future of housing. Together, we'll explore how political ideologies shape development priorities, where consensus can be found, and how we move from debate to action. Expect lively, insightful dialogue on what it will take to build more homes—and better communities—for all.

Speaker(s): Ben Cooper, Research Manager, Fabian Society

Lord Ben Gascoigne, Chair, House of Lords Built Environment Committee

16:50

### Closing remarks

## Delivering confidence

We are RICS. Everything we do is designed to effect positive change in the built and natural environments. Through our respected global standards, leading professional progression and our trusted data and insight, we promote and enforce the highest professional standards in the development and management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others provides a foundation for confident markets, pioneers better places to live and work and is a force for positive social impact.

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