

Belfast Urban Thinkers Campus Programme

The City Centre for Everyone

List of Speakers and Chairs



Alastair Adair

Professor Alastair Adair is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Ulster University. As a key member of the senior leadership team Professor Adair provides strategic and academic governance. Among many other things he is responsible for providing academic leadership for the University's new Belfast campus development, value £263m, which will see the delivery of 15,000 students and staff into the city centre by 2019 with the potential to lever £1bn of regeneration benefits for the city and the wider region. He is also Professor of Property Investment and a researcher, with research interests comprising the financing of infrastructure and value creation, and regeneration and property market performance. He is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, an Honorary Fellow of the European Real Estate Society and an Honorary member of the Royal Society of Ulster Architects. He was appointed CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2014 for services to Higher Education in Northern Ireland.



Neale Blair

Neale Blair is a Senior Lecturer in Planning at the School of the Built Environment, Ulster University and is an expert in spatial planning policy and practice. Neale is the academic lead for the Planning teaching team at Ulster – UPLAN – and is Faculty Subject Partnership Manager. Neale is also active member of Ulster's Built Environment Research Institute (BERI). Neale is a chartered member of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Neale is an expert in spatial planning, regeneration and development, and has been working with the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) for over a decade, and currently represents Ulster University on ICLR's Executive Board. Neale's research interests include cross-border spatial planning; spatial governance and analysis; planning education in developing countries; and visualisation techniques for stakeholder engagement and decision making.



Flemming Borreskov

Flemming Borreskov is Founder and President of Catalytic Society with the mission to develop and promote the creative interaction between government, the business community and civil society - with a particular emphasis on cities and on the interaction between people and cities. He is former CEO of Realdania, a strategic philanthropic foundation based in Denmark, with the objective of initiating and supporting projects that improve the built environment and subsequently improve the quality of life for the common good. Currently he is Board member of BLOXHUB; Special Advisor to UN Global Compact Foundation; Member of the Council (Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize); and Initiator of the Strategic Urban Governance

Masterclass Program for Danish Urban Executives. Since 2010 Flemming has been president of The International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP) which is a worldwide association of institutions and professionals working with housing, urban planning and sustainable urban development. Flemming Borreskov holds an MSc in Economics from Copenhagen University.



Trudi Elliott

Trudi Elliott is a Chartered Town Planner and has been Chief Executive of the Royal Town Planning Institute since 2011. She sits on DCLG's Planning Sounding Board and the National Infrastructure Planning Association Policy Council. Trudi has worked in planning in various capacities for the past twenty years. As Director of the Government Office for the West Midlands, Trudi advised on large and controversial planning applications, managed the national planning case work on behalf of government offices and advised on aspects of planning, housing, transport and regeneration as they affected communities across the West Midlands. Trudi was a member of the Taylor Review into planning guidance.



Diana Fitzsimons

Diana Fitzsimons is an RTPI planner and an RICS development surveyor with her own planning consultancy, having formerly worked in N Ireland as a Senior Lecturer in Planning & Development at Ulster University; as a Principal Commissioner with the Planning Appeals Commission; and as Office Director of the planning consultancy Turley. She has extensive practical experience in urban regeneration, port planning, housing development and mixed use masterplanning. She was formerly Chairman of both the RTPI and the RICS NI Branches; a member of RICS Governing Council; a member of the Ministerial Advisory Group; and Deputy President of the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP). She is currently Chair of Radius Housing Association; Co-Chair of the UN Habitat's Professionals' Forum; an Ambassador for IFHP; and a Visiting Professor in the Built Environment at Ulster University. Diana holds a Masters Degree in Economics and a Masters Degree in Town Planning. She has published widely and presented at conferences worldwide.



Anette Galskjøt

Anette joined the IFHP in January 2015 and was appointed CEO at the end of June 2015. She has a Danish law degree and an LLM from Kings College London and has a long career within investment banking, IT as well as the public sector working with project management and leadership. Parallel to this Anette has worked as non-executive director in a number of limited companies and currently serves on the board of Skovsnogen Foundation and the strategic advisory board of the scientific innovation incubator OvaCure.



Ali Grehan

Ali Grehan is Dublin City Architect and leads a team responsible for developing a broad urban design agenda including the delivery of diverse projects in relation to the civic realm, housing, community and cultural infrastructure. Her career has included private practice in Dublin, London and Bilbao, as well as the Public Service. A particular focus has been on large-scale urban regeneration, housing and infrastructure projects. Prior to becoming City Architect in 2008, Ali was Chief Architect with Ballymun Regeneration Ltd; a regeneration project which encompassed the full spectrum of development required for a sustainable town for 30,000 people. She also worked with the RPA delivering Dublin's first LUAS Light Rail system which has changed the face of public transport in Dublin. Ali devised and coordinated Dublin's bid for World Design Capital 2014, now continuing as the design platform, PIVOT Dublin. She lives in Dublin city centre with her family.



Andrew Haley

Andrew Haley is a Director with The Paul Hogarth Company, Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) and Built Environment Expert with Design Council CABE. For over 25 years, Andrew has contributed his placemaking skills as a Landscape Architect, Urban Designer and Regeneration Consultant within urban and rural settings across Northern Ireland, the rest of the UK and internationally. Projects have included the Connswater Community Greenway, the regeneration of Laganside and Titanic Quarter and ongoing work at Hillsborough Castle.



Kate Henderson

Kate is Chief Executive of the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA), a visiting professor at the Bartlett School of Planning at University College London (UCL), and a member of the Board of the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP). Over the past decade, Kate has raised the TCPA's profile through a range of high-profile campaigns, most notably around garden cities, affordable housing, poverty and climate change which has shaped government policy and sector thinking. Kate has been a member of government panels and independent commissions including the Lyons Housing review. Kate is co-author of three books, *Rebuilding Britain* (2014) and *English planning in crisis* (2016), both published by Policy Press, and *The art of building a garden city* (2017) published by RIBA Publishing. She has written comment pieces for a variety of respected publications and regularly gives talks at industry events and universities. She has a first-class honours degree from UCL, a MSc in environmental technology from Imperial College London, is a member of the Energy Institute and a Chartered Environmentalist.



Clive Harridge

Clive Harridge is the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) - a voluntary role which Clive has held since 2010. CAP's membership is made up of the national planning associations of 28 Commonwealth countries representing over 40,000 planners. The organisation is active globally in promoting the need for sustainable development and supporting planners in tackling some of the world's biggest challenges including rapid urbanisation, poverty, inequality and climate change. Clive is also a member of the RTPI's International Committee. Clive's 'day job' is Director and Head Planning, Transport and Design at

Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd, one of the UK's leading multidisciplinary consultancies. Clive was President of the Royal Town Planning Institute in 2006 - the first ever President elected by membership ballot. Clive's Presidential theme was "Get Real about Sustainable Development!" and he championed good practice in all aspects of sustainability. He became a Freeman of the City of London in 2007.

Graeme Johnston



Graeme is Property Director at the Belfast Harbour Commissioners where he has taken a leading role in the redevelopment of major dockland sites in the city centre including the areas now known as City Quays (8 ha) and Titanic Quarter (75 ha). The Belfast Harbour Commissioners take their Corporate Social Responsibility duties very seriously and work closely with nearby inner city communities and with young people. He is a qualified Chartered Surveyor and Chartered Project Management Surveyor. He joined Belfast Harbour in

2007 having held a number of senior positions in the banking and retail sectors. Previously Graeme was Property Director for the Henderson Group and was all-Ireland Property Manager for the Ulster Bank.

M. Satish Kumar



Dr. M. Satish Kumar has taught in the School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast since 2000. He has held Visiting Professorship positions in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and in Soka University of America, California. He is currently a Visiting Professor in the University of Calcutta, India. He has more than 27 years' experience of teaching and researching in the Higher Education Sector in India, Cambridge and Belfast. He was awarded the Queen's University Teaching Award (2014) as nominated

by the students. He was a member of the Expert Panel of All Party Group on International Development, Stormont Assembly, Northern Ireland. He successfully coordinated the launch of the major international Exhibition: Gandhi, King, Ikeda Peacebuilders' Exhibition in QUB and the Annual QUB-India Lecture Series, from 2008-11. He is a member of the South Belfast Partnership Board and is currently engaged with the regeneration opportunities for the City of Belfast. He established the Young Civic Leaders of Northern Ireland (2014) which is focused as a space for the youth to design and define their own city. He has published extensively across multidisciplinary themes with a global perspective.



Gerry Millar

Gerry Millar is the Council's Director of Property and Projects responsible for delivering all major capital schemes many of which have involved complex cross community negotiations and have clearly benefited inner city communities. Gerry's previous positions include the Head of Urban Development within the Council's Development Department. where he led a Brownfield Economic Regeneration Initiative (BERI) funded by the EU involving 8 transnational Cities. He also worked closely with the Central Government's Department for Social Development in the City Centre and in inner city neighbourhoods. He is a chartered surveyor by profession and has previous experience in public sector housing and private sector commercial property and construction. He holds an MBA from Ulster University and is a graduate of the Belfast Common Purpose programme.



Kevin Murray

Kevin is a chartered town planner and urbanist with over 30 years experience in the fields of planning, regeneration, urban design and economic development. He is a graduate of Aberdeen (1977-81) and Oxford Brookes (1981-83) Universities and was a director of consultancies EDAW and Tibbalds Monro before starting Kevin Murray Associates in 2002. He is a Founding Director of the Academy of Urbanism, having previously been President of the Royal Town Planning Institute (2000-2001). He is currently Honorary Professor of Planning at Glasgow University (2007-2017). He has led and participated in a wide range of complex planning and regeneration projects, with diverse clients and designers, integrating policy, design and creative engagement. These have included at London's Royal Docks, Kings Cross and Greenwich Millennium Village, Aberdeen City Centre, Croydon 2020 Vision, Dundee Waterfront, Edinburgh (New Town and waterfront), Glasgow city centre and neighbourhoods, and Kilmarnock IUDP. He has contributed to planning and masterplanning events in N Ireland, Egypt, Hong Kong/China, Japan, Jordan, Norway, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Australia. Kevin has also served as an adviser and facilitator to DCLG/ODPM, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly Government and Architecture and Design Scotland.



Eileen Patterson

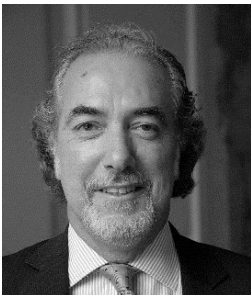
Eileen is the Director of Communities with Radius Housing, a housing association at the forefront of developing and delivering high quality housing and services in Northern Ireland to meet the needs of all client groups. This includes accommodation for young singles and families, independent and supported living for vulnerable and older people, home adaptation services, telecare and telehealth. She is currently responsible for the housing management functions of all Radius's sheltered and general family housing. Eileen has vast experience in social housing and previously worked for the NI Housing Executive where she held various senior positions. She is a graduate of Ulster University and holds an MSc in Housing. She is also graduate of the Queen's University Business Leader's Programme and is a

Chartered member of the Institute of Housing. She is well known in the UK social housing movement for her passion and commitment in delivering for those in need.



Ian Snowden

Ian Snowden is Director of Housing in the central government's Department for Communities. In this role he has an extensive and complex remit which includes: the policy and funding framework to support the delivery of social housing, affordable housing and housing-led regeneration programmes; developing the policy, legislative and regulatory framework to support a good quality private rented sector; gathering intelligence and developing targeted initiatives to address wider issues in the housing market, particularly housing supply; and the policy and funding framework to support the delivery of shared housing (ie both Protestants and Catholics living together). Most of the last 16 years has been spent in the Department's Urban Regeneration Group working in the regeneration teams in some of Northern Ireland's most disadvantaged and segregated communities, including West Belfast and Londonderry. Recently he has been responsible for the housing of refugees from certain war torn countries.



Phil Williams

Phil Williams is Belfast City Council's first Director of Planning and Place, having taken up post in June 2015 following the transfer of planning powers to local government. He has had 35 years' experience in the public sector in London and Welsh authorities. He has led on major projects, including the redevelopment of Cardiff Bay and city centre and regeneration/reclamation schemes in the Valleys. Phil holds a BA (Hons) Geography degree from Kings College London, an MSc in Planning from Cardiff University, and an MBA from the University of South Wales. Phil was the President of the Royal Town Planning Institute in 2016.



Suzanne Wylie

Suzanne Wylie took up the post of Chief Executive of Belfast City Council in 2014. Through the Council's City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy, Suzanne is positioning the Council as a key driver in the continued growth of Belfast as Northern Ireland's capital city. She has been leading the Council's new city plan, the Belfast Agenda, aimed at delivering economic growth and connecting neighbourhoods and people to the opportunities it creates. Suzanne's role includes leading positive urban transformation through collaborative partnerships aimed at attracting new residents to live in the City, improving health and educational inequalities, and supporting the urban economy.