

Proposal to host:

**The 13<sup>th</sup> AESOP HEADS OF SCHOOLS MEETING**  
18-21 April 2018, Newcastle-upon Tyne, UK



School of Architecture Planning and Landscape

Newcastle University

United Kingdom

May 2017



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## OVERVIEW

### INTRODUCTION

As a full member of AESOP, the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape (APL) at Newcastle University is pleased to apply to host the 13th **AESOP Heads of Schools Meeting** next year.

2018 is a particularly important date in APL calendar because it coincides with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its planning research centre, Global Urban Research Unit (GURU). It would be an honour to be able to celebrate **GURU25** with our colleagues from across the European planning schools. As part of GURU25, we aim to invite renowned speakers to present inspiring provocations about the future of planning education and research.

Centrally located in Newcastle City Centre, Newcastle University provides an excellent, accessible venue for hosting the HoS meeting, as demonstrated below.

### NEWCASTLE CITY

The city of Newcastle upon Tyne is the capital of the North East region of England. It is situated on the North bank of the River Tyne, in the Tyne and Wear metropolitan area with the North Sea to the East.

Newcastle was named after the Norman castle in its centre. However, the city can trace its history back to Roman times. Remnants of Hadrian's Wall exist alongside a medieval cathedral, and impressive Victorian buildings.

The city lies at the heart of the ancient kingdom of Northumbria, renowned for its glorious unspoilt countryside and rich heritage. The region is at the northern limit of the Roman Empire and has been the location of many border battles with Scotland. It is 46 miles from the Scottish border, 100 miles from Edinburgh, and 280 miles from London. 20 miles to the South is the city of Durham, a World Heritage Site.



Newcastle's history dates back to a Roman settlement that grew up round the fort and bridge established by the Roman Emperor Hadrian in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD. The city's name is after the castle built by William the Conqueror's son in 1080 and rebuilt by Henry II. Newcastle was given a city charter as early as 1172. By the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the city had become an important centre for the then highly lucrative wool trade. Later it became a major coal mining area, shipping coal to Elizabethan London. The port developed in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, and ship building became established along the lower reaches of the Tyne.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the classical development of Grainger Town, providing Newcastle with some of its finest buildings, and the growth of Newcastle's heavy industry: coal mining, ship building, engineering, munitions and manufacturing.

As elsewhere in Europe, Newcastle's heavy industry declined in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and it has looked to service industries, retail, tourism and the knowledge economy to restore its fortunes. In the 1960s, Modernist rebuilding initiatives were instigated by the Council, led by T. Dan Smith (see Study Tour 3), and more recently, large scale regeneration projects have replaced the former shipping premises with major cultural venues such as the Baltic, Sage Gateshead, The Millennium Bridge and Newcastle Quayside, with its bars and restaurants, transforming the river front (see Study Tour 2).



## NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

Originally affiliated to Durham University, Newcastle University's origins date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the establishment of the School of Medicine and Surgery in 1834, followed by the founding of Armstrong College in 1871 for the teaching of physical sciences.

These colleges merged into Kings College in 1937. In 1963, this became independent from Durham University and formed the foundation of the newly established Newcastle University.

Today, Newcastle University is a member of the prestigious Russell Group which includes 24 leading research institutions in the UK (<http://russellgroup.ac.uk/about/>).



It has one of the largest EU funded research portfolios in the UK, with around 235 FP7 projects worth over €100million to the university and over 40 projects awarded under Horizon 2020. In the most recent assessment of research quality in UK universities in 2014, 31% of Newcastle's research was rated world-leading, with a further 48% rated internationally excellent.



Over 17,000 undergraduate and 6,200 postgraduate students are engaged in its research-informed degree courses, learning from and working alongside academics who are at the cutting-edge of their discipline. 29% of students and 30% of academic staff are from overseas. The university has medical and engineering campuses in Malaysia and Singapore and a new campus in London.

A critical part of its role as a civic university is the positive difference it makes to the city of Newcastle and the wider north east of England. Newcastle has also committed to ensuring that its research helps address some of the world's key issues by focusing on selected societal challenges: ageing, social renewal and sustainability.

## SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & LANDSCAPE

The Department of Town Planning was founded in 1946 as one of the oldest and longest standing planning schools in the UK, with one of the longest established undergraduate degrees in Town Planning in England. In 1999, it merged with the Department of Architecture to create the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape.



The School is internationally renowned for its excellence in teaching and research in planning. It has a demonstrable track record of excellence in research and was ranked 4<sup>th</sup>. Of 45 for research intensity and research power in the 2014 UK Research Excellence Framework (REF). Planning academics are closely engaged with policy and practice and have ongoing collaborations with Newcastle City Council, and the wider region. APL has 46 permanent academic staff, 7 research fellows or associates, 80 doctoral research students and a vibrant ERASMUS exchange.

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## EDUCATION

Our vision is to produce reflective and responsible professionals who have a coherent understanding of planning as part of a multi-disciplinary activity of making and sustaining places which are prosperous, socially just, inclusive, and enhance the quality of life for present and future generations. Through research we are committed to enlarging our understanding of place and place-making. Through research-led teaching, with a strong emphasis on professional ethics, we aspire to combine innovation and creativity with a practical approach so that planners leaving Newcastle can not only envision places, but recreate realistic and deliverable strategies for implementation. It is our aim that our graduates have the intellectual ability to manage change, to work effectively with other professionals and to operationalise new opportunities in what is a highly dynamic discipline.

Our planning programme currently offers 8 courses, of which 6 are accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), and 2 are accredited by Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).



<b>Undergraduate Programmes</b>	<b>Postgraduate Programmes</b>
<b>Accredited Programmes</b>	<b>Accredited Programmes</b>
BA Urban Planning (RTPI spatially accredited)	MSc Town Planning (RTPI and RICS accredited);
Master of Planning MPlan (RTPI and RICS accredited)	MSc Planning for Sustainability and Climate Change (RTPI accredited)
Certificate in Planning Practice (Placement Year)	MSc International Spatial Planning (RTPI accredited)
<b>Non- accredited Associated Programmes</b>	MA Planning and Environment Research (RTPI accredited)
BA Geography and Planning	<b>Partially accredited programmes</b>
BA Architecture and Urban Planning	MA Urban Design (specialist accredited by RTPI)
	(PG Diploma in Spatial Planning (RTPI spatially accredited))

The main undergraduate programme, recruiting about 50 students/year, is the integrated MPlan qualification. This programme is dual accredited by the RTPI and RICS, with an embedded placement year in professional planning practice between Year 3 and the Final Year. Students are able to exit after Year 3 with a BA Urban Planning which is recognised professionally as an undergraduate spatial planning degree by the RTPI.

Alongside the MPlan / BA Urban Planning programme, we also offer a joint honours degree in BA Geography and Planning in conjunction with the Geography Department (situated in a different School), (recruiting about 40 students/year) and a joint honours degree in BA Architecture and Urban Planning (recruiting about 40 students/year). Students are able to transfer across programmes at the end of first year providing flexibility of choice for new undergraduate entrants.



For students who completed an undergraduate degree programme in a different discipline, seeking a change of career, we currently provide 3 planning conversion courses to enable them to become professional planners. These are the MSc in Town Planning, which is accredited by both the RTPI and RICS, and two more specialist planning degrees: MSc Planning for Sustainability and Climate Change; and the MSc in International Spatial Planning, which are both accredited by the RTPI. For students interested in urban design we have the MA in Urban Design, which is specialist accredited by the RTPI. Currently our PGT programmes recruit about 60-80 students a year.

For students interested in Doctoral research it is possible to complete the RTPI accredited MSc Planning and Environmental Research.

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## RESEARCH

In the Research Excellence Framework 2014, 85% of our research was graded as world-leading (4\*) or internationally excellent (3\*) and our ranking in terms of intensity highlights our submission of over 90% of eligible staff. In the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) league table for research power we were also placed 4th in the UK. With over 40 staff included we were able to demonstrate our breadth and depth across architecture, planning, landscape and rural development.

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## GLOBAL URBAN RESEARCH UNIT

GURU is one of twelve University-recognised research centres, led by Professor Simin Davoudi.

Founded in 1993, under a different name, GURU aims to provide a strategic focus on **globally relevant urban research** at Newcastle University. Internationally recognised for its theoretical contributions to planning, governance and urban studies and for its engagement in societal challenges, public policy, community development and professional practices, GURU promotes academic excellence and creativity to enable progressive urban policy and practice, particularly in relation to following themes:

- people, place and politics
- culture, identity and heritage
- urban design and environmental flourishing
- environmental planning, assessment and management
- infrastructure and digital technologies



GURU has a track record of generating significant amount of research grants from a wide range of international, European, national and local funding bodies with a total value over £16 million since 2014. The interdisciplinary nature of GURU research is reflected in the diversity of its funding sources which include European Commission, UK Research councils, research councils outside the UK, and arrange of governmental and charitable organisations.

This research has been disseminated through more than 240 publications since 2014. As evident in our research impact case studies and prestigious awards, GURU research continues to be actively engaged with policy, practice and community activities as a way of contributing to societal challenges. GURU members have held visiting professorship in 20 universities in 12 countries and hosted 45 international visitors since 2014.

In addition to GURU, The Architecture Research Collaborative (ARC) is also based in APL, and the School is part of the NINE DTC (Doctoral Training Centre), which is funded and accredited by the ESRC.





## ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

APL has a track record of hosting major events such as:

GURU symposium, May 2017

UK-Ireland Planning Research Conference 2009

UN-Habitat Global Report Meeting, 2008

FP7 Sustainable Urban Metabolism Consortium meeting 2010

GURU symposium, May 2017



UN-Habitat Global Report International Advisory Meeting, March 2008

In addition, the school runs a highly successful and highly received public lecture series and organises the biennale Thomas Sharp Public lecture.



Sir Peter Hall delivering Thomas Sharp Public Lecture, March 2014

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## LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

A local organizing committee has been established to work on this application and, if successful, on the organization of the meeting. This comprises of:

<p>Professor Adam Sharr Head of the School <b>Ambassador</b></p>
<p>Dr. Susannah (Zan) Gunn Director of Planning <b>Co-chair</b></p>
<p>Professor Simin Davoudi Director of GURU <b>Co-chair</b></p>
<p>Ms. Qianqian Qin <b>Manager</b></p>
<p><b>Alison Pattinson</b> APL Event &amp; Engagement Officer</p>

This committee will be responsible for all the administrative functions of the conference, including marketing materials preparation, organisation, and specific aspects of the conference schedule, such as registration, conference venue and the conference reception and dinner, and study tours organization.

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## VENUES AND FACILITIES

We can accommodate meetings of up to 500 delegates. Our on-site catering and accommodation, central and accessible location and friendly team makes Newcastle University an excellent place to hold meetings or conferences.



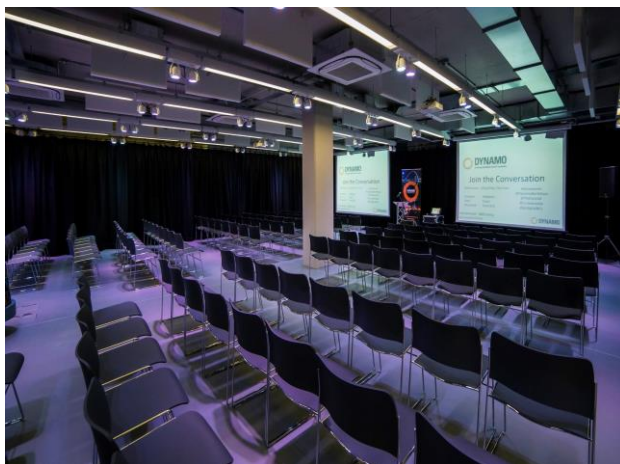
Most of our venues are on our campus in the heart of Newcastle city centre and highly accessible for visitors with disabilities. These range from large auditoriums and lecture theatres, to small breakout rooms and classrooms. Many of our campus venues make use of our impressive hallways and atriums as space for conference reception areas.

State-of-the-Art IT facilities and Wi-Fi connection are available across the campus and in all lecture rooms.

### ***Examples of Venues:***

#### **Research Beehive**

The Research Beehive is a purpose-built meeting facility inside the Old Library Building, in the heart of campus. It's equipped with the latest technology and provides a suite of new seminar rooms including informal break-out space. The Research Beehive is fully accessible for visitors with disabilities. - Access is clearly directed from the ground floor main entrance.



#### **The Core**

The Core event space can sit up to 150 people theatre style and can also accommodate board room meetings, workshops, seminars and exhibitions for various sized groups. The event space has two ceiling mounted projectors and screens and audio/visual equipment available including two wireless microphones and two large speakers. A portable projector, flat screen TV and DVD player are also available. The Event Space is a fully accessible, air-cooled space.

## **COLLABORATION**

APL has strong links with local planning organizations in the public, private and voluntary sectors, and works closely with local authorities (municipalities) in the region, and in particular, with Newcastle City Council, in relation to both research and teaching.

The School hosts two key University-wide interdisciplinary initiatives: City Futures – led by Professor Mark Tewdwr Jones and Newcastle Institute for Social Renewal – led by Professor Mark Shucksmith.

## **FINANCIAL CAPACITY AND CONFERENCE COST PER DELEGATE**

APL Head of the School has agreed to underwrite the cost of the conference. We will also seek sponsorship from our local partners if the bid is successful.

Total cost for delegates will be **£60 per delegate**. This will cover all lunches (18-21 April, tea/coffee breaks, the reception on 19 April, and the study tour). In addition, all delegates are invited to the GURU celebration dinner on 20 April.

## LOCATION: CITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

The campus is in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne, the regional capital of the North East of England. Newcastle is easy to travel to and simple to navigate.

Lonely Planet's Great Britain guidebook (2011) named Newcastle as "the hipster capital of the northeast". Attractions include theatres, art galleries, museums and eateries. In 2010, Newcastle was voted third best city in Europe for Nightlife in Trip Advisor's Travellers Choice Awards.



## EXTERNAL ACCESS

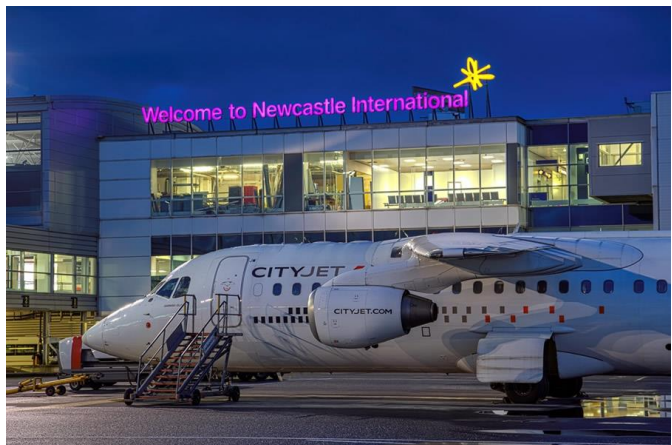
The city is well connected by plane, trains, coaches and ferries.

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### BY AIR

The city of Newcastle benefits from its own **International Airport** ([Newcastle International Airport](#)) which is located approximately 6 miles (9.7 km) from the city centre on the northern outskirts of the city.

The airport is connected to the city via the Metro Light Rail system and a journey into Newcastle city centre takes approximately 20 minutes. Regular bus services are available. Currently, there are over 80 direct destinations available worldwide. 15 airlines are in operation, including British Airway, Air France, Emirates, KLM, and economic airlines such as EasyJet, Ryanair, Flybe, and Vueling.





It offers several direct flights to the main hubs in Europe on a daily basis including London, Amsterdam, Brussels, and Paris, plus several direct economic flights to Berlin and Barcelona and other major European cities every week.



- Newcastle to London: 6 Direct Flights per day, average duration 1h15m
- Newcastle to Amsterdam: 5 Direct Flights per day, average duration 1h18m
- Newcastle to Paris: 3 Direct Flights per day, average duration 1h47m

Nearby Airports include: Edinburgh, Manchester, Leeds Bradford

## BY TRAIN

Direct rail services run from many UK cities to Newcastle Central Station. Virgin Trains operates the East Coast mainline from London Kings Cross to Scotland via Newcastle and the CrossCountry route links the region with Scotland, the Midlands and the South West. Northern Rail operates services from Carlisle, Teesside and beyond, while TransPennine Express services run from Manchester, Liverpool and stations across Yorkshire.

Journey information from destinations within the UK

Location	Travel time
London	3h
Edinburgh	1h 25mins
Manchester	2h 50mins
Liverpool	3h 40mins

\*All journey times and distances are approximate

Newcastle Central Station is within easy walking distance of many central destinations and is well connected by Metro, QuayLink, bus and taxi.



Station facilities include travel information, left luggage, toilets, cafés, a bar and cash machines.

Advanced ticket purchase and fixing the travel time usually leads to cheaper tickets.



#### Virgin Trains East Coast

[Visit the Virgin Trains East Coast website here.](#)



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#### BY SEA

The International Passenger Terminal at Royal Quays, North Shields is only 8 miles (11km) east of Newcastle city centre and is the North of England's main sea link with mainland Europe.

DFDS Seaways operate daily overnight ferry crossings from Amsterdam (IJmuiden) in Holland throughout the year for foot passengers and cars. IJmuiden can be easily reached from the rest of Holland, and also from Belgium, Denmark, Germany and France.



Buses operate from the terminal to Newcastle Central Station and the journey takes around 30 minutes. The nearest Metro station is Percy Main - a 15 minute walk from the terminal.

#### By Road

The A1(M) passes through Newcastle, linking the city to London, Scotland and major routes across the country. The A69 links west to Carlisle, the Lake District and, via the M6, to the South and West of England.

Central car parks are situated only a short distance from both routes and are well signposted.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT WITHIN THE CITY

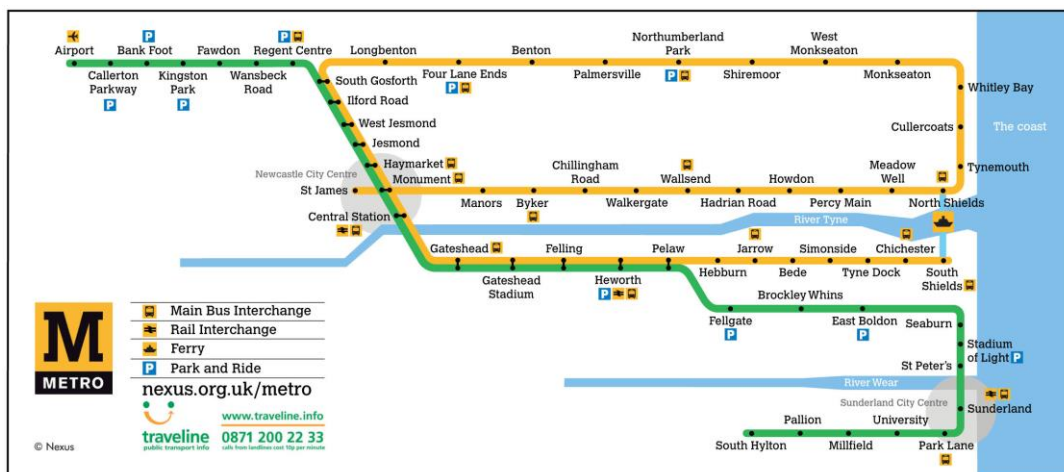
The city is served with excellent public transport

### METRO

The City is well served by the Metro which links the entire Tyne and Wear metropolitan area, including the airport. It has been rated as one of the UK's most efficient rapid transport systems. There are Metro stations in the heart of Newcastle city centre (Monument and Haymarket), at Newcastle Central Station and Gateshead and Sunderland town centre.

Newcastle International Airport also has its own Metro station and the journey time from Newcastle city centre to the Airport is around 20 minutes.

Newcastle University is within walking distance from Haymarket metro station.



Tickets can be purchased via ticket machines at the Metro station, and card payment is accepted. It is possible to buy a Metro DaySaver if you are planning on making a few journeys, which gives all day unlimited Metro travel.

#### Metro Fares

##### Metro Single

Zone(s)	Price
One Zone	£1.70
Two Zones	£2.60
All Zones	£3.30

##### Metro Day saver

Zone(s)	Price
One Zone	£2.90
Two Zones	£4.00
All Zones	£5.00



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## BUS

Bus services in Newcastle are plentiful and frequent and there are a wide variety of special travel tickets available including a Day Rover for unlimited travel by any form of public transport in Tyne & Wear, while the North East Explorer ticket can be used on public transport right across the North East region.

All the main bus operators offer a day ticket, which may save you money if you are making more than a return journey on their services in one day.

For full details of Arriva's Day Saver ticket - <http://www.arrivabus.co.uk/>

For full details of Go North East's 1 day Buzzfare - <http://www.simplygo.com/>

For full details of Stagecoach's Dayrider - <http://www.stagecoachbus.com/>

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## TAXI

Newcastle is served by multiple taxi providers, ranging from luxury rides to budget taxis. A ride with the Airport Taxis from the airport to the city centre costs approximately £16-£20.

Average 5 to 10 minutes waiting time if you book taxi via phone. Average starting tariffs is £2.60.



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## CLIMATE

Weather in Newcastle, as the rest of Britain, is very variable. But April is normally drier, warmer with long daytime.

### April Climate & Weather Averages in Newcastle upon Tyne

High Temp: 11 °C

Precipitation: 23.1 mm

Wind: 9 mph

Low Temp: 4 °C

Humidity: 79%

Pressure: 1014 mbar

Mean Temp: 7 °C

Dew Point: 4 °C

Visibility: 10 km



## HOTELS

Newcastle has an impressively wide variety of different hotels with everything from stylish and unique boutiques to clean, smart and convenient budget offerings for an ideally located base from which to explore the city. Average hotel price is about £87.

Examples of 4 and 5 Star hotels are: Marriot, Copthorne, Jurys Inn, Sandmann, Holiday Inn, Vermont, Crowne Plaza, Jesmond Dean House

For more information, see the City's official Tourist Information site

<https://www.newcastle-gateshead.com/>

## RESTAURANTS

Newcastle has a huge range of restaurants, cafes, bars and clubs that offer a wide range of international cuisines such as: Indian, Chinese, Thai, Italian, Turkish, Persian, etc. There is also an impressive selection of Halal, vegan and vegetarian restaurants in Newcastle. Newcastle's Chinatown is located right in the city centre, which offers authentic Chinese cuisine.

Average meal in a fine dining venue cost around £30 and average meal in a café costs around £7.

## BEYOND NEWCASTLE

A short drive from the city is the region's spectacular coastline and stunning countryside, including Northumberland National Park and Hadrian's Wall. The Lake District, Yorkshire Dale and the Scottish Borders are all within easy reach for a day trip.



## PROPOSED PROGRAM, STUDY TOURS AND COST

### PROPOSED PROGRAM

#### Wednesday, 18 April, 2018 - Executive Committee Meeting

Morning	ExCo Meeting
Lunch	Break
Afternoon	ExCo Meeting
Dinner	To be paid by delegates (APL can do group booking of restaurants if requested)

#### Thursday, 19 April, 2018 - CoReP and HOS Meeting

Morning	Welcome & Introduction to APL – Prof Adam Sharr Introduction to Planning Programme in APL – Dr Zan Gunn CoReP Meeting
Lunch	Break
Afternoon	Heads of School Meeting
Late Afternoon	Drink Reception in Newcastle City Council Banquet Hall
Dinner	To be paid by delegates (APL can do group booking of restaurants if requested)

#### Friday, 20 April 2018 - **GURU 25 Conference: Urban Planning and Research - Retrospect & Prospect**

9.00 – 9.30	Arrival + Coffee + Registration
9.30 – 9.45	Welcome - Prof Adam Sharr Introduction to GURU – Prof Simin Davoudi
9.45 – 10.15	Keynote Speech: Prof Patsy Healey
10.15 – 10.45	Tea & Coffee Break
10.45 – 13.00	Parallel Presentations (tbc)
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 – 16.00	Parallel Presentations (tbc)
16.00 – 16.30	Tea & Coffee Break
16.30 – 17.00	Keynote Speech (tbc)
17.00 – 17.10	Close
19.00 - late	<b>GURU25 Celebration Dinner (paid by GURU)</b>

#### Saturday, 21 April 2018: Study Tours

Please see below

## STUDY TOURS

Three study tours are proposed but will only run if there is enough number of people register for them. They will all start in the morning and last until lunch time. Detailed agenda will be confirmed later. The cost of study tours is included in registration fee.

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### OPTION 1 OUSEBURN REGENERATION – MINI-BUS TOUR

Once the cradle of the industrial revolution on Tyneside, the Ouseburn area is once again becoming a vibrant place to live, work and play thanks to imaginative, culture-led regeneration projects and the enthusiasm and commitment of the local community. Now the stunning townscape, set against fields, two rivers and six bridges, is home to artists, musicians, long established and new creative businesses, visitor and educational attractions and, increasingly, residents.



Ouseburn covers an area of around 100 hectares. Locally, the name is most often associated with the small area on Lime Street around The Cluny, Seven Stories and Ouseburn Farm, or the immediate banks of the river itself, but the Regeneration Area extends much further, including the area around the Biscuit Factory, Stepney Bank, parts of Byker, Hoults Yard and, of course, the Ouseburn mouth area. After being at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution on Tyneside, the Valley suffered with the decline of heavy industry in the mid- 20<sup>th</sup> century until the beginnings of regeneration in the 1980's. Since the new millennium, the pace of change has quickened. The area is now famous for its quirky pubs, music venues, artists' studios, and visitor attractions such as the nationally recognised Seven Stories and The Biscuit Factory, new creative business space such as at Hoults Yard and hotels, restaurants and accommodation.

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## OPTION 2: THE HISTORY OF UK PLANNING THOUGHT EXPRESSED IN BRICKS & CONCRETE – MINI-BUS-TOUR

Planning thought is of its time and place. This tour seeks to explore the key ideas of planning thought, planning systems and planning practice as expressed in the UK over the last 60-70 years through the medium of how these have been articulated in the development of Newcastle and its surrounding locales. The tour will demonstrate how key ideas have been taken up imperfectly, haphazardly, and incompletely in the context of history. It is likely to include old favourites such as the Byker Wall, newer highlights such as the Quayside, with the Sage, the Baltic, the Millennium Bridge and the Tyne and Wear UDC, the Team Valley, the Angel of the North, and the more mundane urban spaces in between to reflect on the types of development these ideas, and the systems within which they occurred, have produced.



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## OPTION 3: NEWCASTLE: THE CITY THAT WAS NOT! – WALK TOUR

In the 1960s, under the leadership of T Dan Smith and his chief planning officer Wilf Burns, Newcastle city council undertook a comprehensive re-planning of the city centre that, had it been carried out to its full extent, would have led to the construction of underground motorways and a series of raised pedestrian decks running along Northumberland Street in the main shopping zone. The plan was that the new city would encircle the historical core, which would be preserved; meanwhile vast swathes of Georgian housing to the east would be razed. There were also plans for high-rise towers in the centre, only one of which was built. But Smith's vision for the city is tainted by his corruption and the redevelopment envisaged by Newcastle's planning department was left far from complete. Although two sides of the 19th century Eldon Square were demolished for a shopping mall, the city centre remained relatively untouched, while the east of the city was utterly changed.

