

## **Gilian C. Macinnes Bsc MBA MRTPI**

**A leader, manager, town planner and communicator in planning and placemaking focused on achieving sustainable growth for communities supported by infrastructure.**

**SKILLS:** Leadership, communications skills, people management, negotiation, problem solving, project management, political awareness, collaborative working, networking, information analysis and synthesis, decisiveness, design, public speaking, facilitation, and chairing

### **EDUCATION –**

Heriot Watt University - Bsc (Hon - 2:1) in Town and Country Planning

University of Brighton - Master of Business Administration

**MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTION** - Royal Town Planning Institute

### **CURRENT AND RECENT POSITIONS**

**Gilian Macinnes Associates-** Director –Planning and Placemaking Advisor – July 16 to Present  
Advising local planning authorities (LPA's) and other public sector organisations on planning and placemaking including: planning service reviews; development management processes and procedures; delivering seminars, training and coaching for officers and councillors on planning and development issues and skills; advising on and reviewing the effectiveness of policies and approaches to: affordable housing, infrastructure funding and delivery of growth, and planning viability; Infrastructure planning; development of planning policy and delivery strategies including stakeholder engagement and management; working collaboratively across Councils and with stakeholders to, develop, write and review s106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) policy and guidance, affordable housing supplementary planning documents and planning policies and procedures; and chairing and speaking at national conferences on planning, housing and development.

**Town & Country Planning Association (TCPA)** – Trustee June 2016 ongoing.  
Contributing to the governance and work of the TCPA.

**Welwyn and Hatfield Borough Council** –Head of Planning (P/T Interim) March-June 2021.  
Managing the service, budget, staffing and recruitment, DM Review and major developments. Addressing a staffing crisis to bring stability to the planning service (short commission).

**Ashford Borough Council (ABC)-** Head of Planning and Development (Full Time Interim)- April 2020 to April 2021

Leading the Planning and Development Service (Planning Applications, Strategic Sites and Delivery, Building Control, Plan Making and Infrastructure, Placemaking, Land Charges and Business support -circa 65 staff), addressing: performance issues and avoiding major application designation (Sept 2020); high levels of staff vacancy, and an unfinished reorganisation. Achieving the introduction of performance management in all service areas to improve performance and avoid Government designation; introducing new processes and procedures including active case management; timely and targeted recruitment to fill vacancies; procurement of a new planning IT system; management of budget pressure balanced with service needs; and promoting the Council and its growth agenda through proactive work with developers and stakeholders to deliver growth. I also led the Council's response to Stodmarsh habitats (Nitrates and Phosphates) issues, which stopped the determination of all housing applications, by working with councillors, managers and officers, by procuring expert resources and engaging and collaborating with English Nature, Environment Agency, PAS, KCC

officers and the Council leadership, development Industry and neighbouring authorities to proactively seek solutions; and communicating with MP, councillors, parishes, developers and agents. Contributing to corporate management in a time of Covid, Brexit, virtual ways of working and budget pressures.

### Consultancy Projects- Recent

- **Planning Advisory Service (PAS)**- Development Management Improvement – Development Management Service Review: LB Harrow, Ashford BC; and Tandridge DC; and committee reviews- Tandridge and Test Valley.
- **Tandridge District Council** – ongoing - short commission to progress DM Review Report actions – particularly capacity and structure to meet the needs of the service.
- **RTPI Masterclass** –creating and leading the Development Management Masterclass - two sessions July 2021 and Sept 2021
- **Various Councillor Training sessions** – including: Introduction to planning and making robust decisions – Ashford BC, Tandridge DC, Welwyn and Hatfield BC, Runnymede BC, Derbyshire Dales DC, South Derbyshire DC; and Viability and Developer contributions – Ashford Borough Council; Tenterden Town Council; LB Waltham Forest, LB Lambeth, Epping Forest DC, Essex Portfolio holders, Hertfordshire County Council, South Kesteven DC.
- **LB Waltham Forest (LBWF)** – Development Management Service improvement and early assessment and negotiations of Town Hall campus application.
- **Acting Chief Planning Officer-(Consultant) -Gloucester City-** mid Sept 2017 –Jan 2018 (Part time) managing a multi-disciplinary team ( Development Management, Plan Making, Economic Development, Strategic Housing, Archaeology and Conservation) embedding new structure, implementing action plan, supporting officers, advising on planning policy implementation and policy development and assessing/negotiating major and complex development proposals
- **Dacorum Borough Council (DBC)**- Infrastructure delivery planning – including Draft IDP Dec 2020
- **Harlow & Gilston Garden Town** – Infrastructure delivery, developer contributions and planning obligations supplementary planning document /development plan document. Collaborative project – East Herts, Epping Forest, Harlow, Hertfordshire CC and Essex CC.
- **Hemel Hempstead Garden Community** – Infrastructure Delivery Review
- **Hertfordshire County Council (HCC)**- Growth and Infrastructure Unit: -Advisor on planning viability, policy, infrastructure funding and developer contributions (CIL & s106); and Adult Social Care – planning and infrastructure funding advisor.
- **PAS**– Supporting Housing and Infrastructure Delivery Through Developer Contributions-working collaboratively with Hertfordshire County and all Hertfordshire Districts.
- **PAS**- Review of Westminster City Council - Planning S106 & CIL Investment Review
- **Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)**-Delivering Infrastructure to Support Growth – engaging and collaborating with the District Councils, County Council's service departments, Local Enterprise Partnership – to review and identify improvements to strategic and collaborative approaches, policies, and implementation of developer contributions to fund and effectively deliver infrastructure;
- **Mid Sussex DC**-Advising on policy approach to developer contributions, infrastructure funding and delivery to support growth.

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

**Planning Advisory Service (PAS) - Local Government Association** - Principal Consultant – October 2008 – July 2016: - Delivering support to local planning authorities across England to

assist them to provide effective and efficient planning services, to drive improvement in those services and to respond to and deliver change. Delivering advice on changing Government policy, development management, and policy and plan making. Undertaking development management, planning and corporate service peer reviews in teams with LGA Peers- senior councillors and officers. Working with DCLG to implement the Community Infrastructure Levy through the creation and delivery of the CIL Front Runners Programme. Writing and editing PAS website and delivering seminars particularly in relation to policy development, development management, viability and developer contributions (CIL & s106). Delivering LGA Planning Leadership Academies to senior councillors and providing briefing and training to senior councillors and those directly involved in delivery planning services.

**National Planning Forum & RTPI** – Local Authority Direct Delivery of Housing Research papers – 2017, July 2019 and 2021 – Authors: Janice Morphet & Ben Clifford. – Member of the Research Advisory Group.

**Developer Contributions Viability Technical Expert Panel -DCLG** – October/December 2017 – This panel was set up to help shape and test the new NPPF policy & guidance on viability.

**The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Review Panel** (6 industry experts) - Appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government -Nov 2015 –Oct 17

**Local Housing and Delivery Group - Viability Testing Local Plans (Harman)-** 2011-2012 – multi-disciplinary working party.

**Sevenoaks District Council (SDC)** – Nov 2005– Oct 2008. Head of Planning and Development Services: Management of, and responsibility for, all aspects of Planning Policy, Development Management and Building Control Services. The people management of 68 staff across 5 multi-disciplinary teams. Leading the service transformation by empowering and supporting staff to work together to identify issues and solutions, and facilitate their implementation to deliver significant service improvements and resilience; undertaking stakeholder engagement for major development proposals; chairing and speaking at public, stakeholder and council meetings; negotiating major and contentious development proposals and associated s106 obligations; and advising and briefing councillors. As Head of Service and a member of the Corporate Management Team, budget management for the service and the Council as a whole, contributing to the integrated, cross department management and delivery of the Council's services.

**Other Positions:** Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) -Development Manager; Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead- Development Manager

## **EXPERIENCE**

I have had varied local authority experience in planning, management and consultancy. I have been involved in cross- sector working parties including the Local Housing Delivery Group- Viability Testing Local plans (Harman), the CIL Review Panel and DCLG Viability Expert panel.

I have led Planning and Development Management services; project managed and delivered significant service improvement, including ensuring that Ashford BC avoided designation (Sept.20) for majors and delivered service stability and improved customer care. In Planning

and Development Management, I developed policy and procedures manuals, (SDC and MBC) and performance management to address performance, consistency, resilience and customer care issues (MBC, SDC, and ABC). I have negotiated (and managed delivery) of large and complex development schemes, to secure improved design, layout and affordable housing & infrastructure to deliver growth and provide better places for people to live and work (MBC, SDC, LBWF, ABC). I worked collaboratively and brought together conflicting stakeholders/consultees to identify solutions (HCC, GCC and districts); and assessed detailed and complex information including government and development plan policies, consultee responses, public and councillor views and balanced these, often competing elements, under significant public scrutiny, to form recommendations on development proposals. I have well developed political antennae and advise and work with council members to deliver their objectives within the relevant legislative framework. I am a decisive decision maker.

I have presented planning applications and policy projects to council committees, been an expert witness in court, Examination in Public, Public Inquiries, and Informal Hearings. I regularly appear at Cabinet meetings to advise on planning and development related issues and projects. I have undertaken public meetings, talks and training with councillors, officers, parishes, interest groups, schools and other parties. I am a regular expert speaker and chair at regional and national planning conferences (e.g. Planning for Housing Conference 2020, National Planning Summit 2020, Westminster Briefings) I receive excellent feedback from participants. I interact well with people, in terms of imparting information and gaining information, whatever their level of knowledge and interest.

I have also developed policy in the form of local plans and supplementary planning documents and guidance, including chairing/facilitating sessions with stakeholders, internal and external to planning and council services, to encourage and develop their input to create better, stronger policy and ultimately better policy implementation leading to better results for communities. I critically review evidence and planning policy, identifying the inter-relationship of evidence to create integrated policies and plans to deliver sustainable growth for communities.

I have an in-depth knowledge of planning, planning legislation, guidance and associated local government policy and legislative issues. I utilise this knowledge to deliver and review effective planning and development services. During my years at PAS I developed a detailed knowledge and expertise advising on development viability and developer contributions (CIL & s106) policy and implementation, building on my existing practical knowledge as a local authority planner.

I have an ability to juggle a great number of competing demands and prioritise them effectively. I am passionate about delivering sustainable development that meets the needs of communities and seek to find appropriate solutions, sometimes utilising my extensive network, to deliver great places for communities

**Contact Details:** email: [gilian@gmacinnes.co.uk](mailto:gilian@gmacinnes.co.uk) Telephone: 07714394046