

The future of cities matter.

A debate on the growing pressures on our cities and infrastructural systems

The future of our cities and their complex supporting systems will be a hot topic at the Construction Industry Research and Information Association's (CIRIA) annual debate on Thursday 22 June 2017, at the Royal Society in London.

The 2017 debate on cities, entitled 'Is the Future green?' will examine how best to plan for and manage a resilient urban future, and how we can do this in a sustainable and equitable way. Engineers, planners, architects and built environment professionals operating in this complex and challenging context are constantly working to adapt urban environments to changing social conditions, demographics, emerging environmental conflicts and ageing assets, while at the same time finding innovative solutions to better design, build and manage cities.

Professor Steffen Lehmann, Co-Director of the University of Portsmouth's Innovation Cluster for Sustainable Cities will be a panellist at this year's debate. In his statement, he will consider how we can realise the urban future we want and report on international 'next' practice. "Our research shows that easy access for all citizens to parks, nature and outdoor spaces is a hallmark of resilient and sustainable cities", Professor Lehmann says.

"We are considering circular economy models for cities and ways to remove the barriers to delivering long term sustainable infrastructure projects, by providing better evidence for long-term decision making and urban governance", he added.

Other speakers will include Peter Head CBE, Founder of the Ecological Sequestration Trust; Sally Uren, CEO of the Forum for the Future; and Malcolm Smith, Arup Fellow.

This high-profile evening debate intends to highlight the wide range of approaches possible for managing urbanised regions, and to address the complexities in developing more inclusive and sustainable urban environments and communities by embracing a new urban agenda.

More information can be found on the CIRIA web site, at:

https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Navigation/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=E17217

