The urbanisation of Irish society has had a profound impact on the character and mix of Irish research. The research agenda now encompasses such diverse issues as the urban consequences of economic restructuring, inner-area economic and physical regeneration, environmental protection and building conservation, residential development and the crisis of housing affordability, the suburbanisation of employment and the impacts of the separation of land-uses on traffic circulation and congestion. It has been concerned with investigating urban issues in advance of policy development and engaging in the monitoring and review of urban policies.

The publication of the *Journal of Irish Urban Studies* marks a growing recognition of the importance of urban-related issues in Irish society. It has been established as a forum for the dissemination of research and the stimulation of discussion and debate. It is a joint initiative of the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, Trinity College Dublin, and the Faculty of the Built Environment, Dublin Institute of Technology, Bolton Street.

Two volumes of the Journal will be published annually. One volume will be thematic, based on papers presented at the annual seminar. The second volume will be eclectic, for which the Journal welcomes the submission of articles from researchers and professional practitioners working in either the public or private sectors. Papers should be relevant to contemporary Irish urban issues. Reviews of non-Irish issues will also be considered insofar as they bear considerable relevance to the Irish situation.

Short papers from urban practitioners (planners, surveyors, architects, housing managers, community workers etc.) reflecting on or critically evaluating specific aspects of contemporary policy and practice are particularly welcome for publication in the *Papers from Practice* section of the Journal.

The current volume mainly comprises articles developed from the papers delivered at the May 2001 seminar on "The Urban Periphery: problems and capacities for sustainable development in the Dublin region."

The article by Brendan Williams and Patrick Shiels provides an overview of the expansion of the Greater Dublin Area during recent years. The paper by Andrew MacLaran and James Killen reviews the increasing suburbanisation of office development and its transport implications. The transport theme is further developed by Hendrik van der Kamp in an appraisal of the potential contribution of multi-modal transport interchanges to the future form of the Greater Dublin Area. Deiric Ó Broin’s paper addresses the theme of participation by marginalised communities in local government structures and the role and experience of the newly established Strategic Policy Committees and the City/County Development Boards. The theme of community activity is further taken up by Michael Punch in his review of voluntary-sector initiatives, or ‘bottom-up’ approaches to development in Tallaght, one of the peripheral western new towns of Dublin.

*Papers from Practice* comprises two articles by senior planners working in two of the local authorities in the Dublin area. The paper by Dick Gleeson reports on a co-operative venture between Dublin Corporation Planning Department and private-sector town planning consultants Urban Initiatives in their attempt to create at the northern edge of Dublin a new suburban development which will from the outset possess a strong sense of place and identity. Continuing the theme of planning for suburban development, Bob Biddlecombe’s challenging paper poses important questions concerning residential density issues.

The *Journal of Irish Urban Studies* wishes to acknowledge the generous financial support of NorDubCo (The North Dublin Development Coalition).
NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Editors welcome the submission of articles for consideration for publication. Articles should be original contributions not previously published or under consideration for any other journal. Authors should ensure that the work does not infringe any existing copyright or breach laws of libel.

Articles will be reviewed by the Editors and forwarded for review to appropriate members of the Editorial Board for anonymous evaluation. Additional expertise may be sought in determining the merits of any submitted article.

Papers should be relevant to contemporary Irish urban issues. Reviews of non-Irish issues will also be considered if they can be shown to bear considerable impact on the Irish situation. Articles should not exceed 7,500 words and submissions for Papers from Practice should not exceed 4,000 words.

Three printed/typescript copies of articles should be forwarded to either of the Managing Editors. They should be double spaced and printed/typed on one side of the paper only. The title of the article, the author's name and institutional or business affiliation should appear on a separate sheet. Tables, figures, maps and other illustrative material should be included on separate pages at the end of the article. A copy of the article must also be supplied on a labelled disk (compatible with MS Word) in either PC or Mac formats.

Citation of other publications should be in Harvard style (i.e. author's name followed by the year of publication). A list of publications to which reference has been made in the text should appear at the end of the article, ordered alphabetically and entitled References. The layout and referencing format of the current issue should be followed. Punctuation marks (e.g. full stops) should be followed by only a single space. Footnotes should be kept to a minimum.

A full postal address to which proofs may be sent should also be provided. Authors must undertake to check and return proofs expeditiously to the Managing Editors.

Proposals for submissions may be discussed with the editors, Andrew MacLaran (amclaran@tcd.ie) and Brendan Williams (brendan.williams@dit.ie) who can be contacted by e-mail.
GENERAL EDITORS
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Department of Geography, Trinity College, Dublin, & Director, Centre for Urban & Regional Studies, Trinity College Dublin

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Mr. Hendrik van der Kamp
Faculty of the Built Environment, Dublin Institute of Technology, Bolton Street

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