

Johanne thomas

Regional Director - Communications, Communities and Partnerships

What do you do?

My role is to lead a team of communications and community development professionals to anchor our strategic sites and ensure stakeholders and communities are informed, engaged and involved in the work that we do.

How did you get into it?

I have worked in housing and estate regeneration throughout my career, making the shift from the public to the private sector to join U&C over seven years ago. My communications and community development expertise and ability to bridge the sector gap was a good fit for largescale strategic site development where partnerships for delivery are essential.

What do you love about your job?

My favourite thing about my role is shifting and changing perceptions about development and placemaking. My whole career has been spent in a community setting, working with stakeholders and residents, with real people. This requires a huge amount of resilience, diplomacy and pragmatism, and I really enjoy those aspects of the role.

Top tips for anyone considering a career in the industry:

Get around! I have been fortunate to work within a range of different community settings through my career – where housing and societal challenges vary significantly. I draw upon my upbringing in a rural village setting, my early career cutting my teeth in estate regeneration and then the scale and scope enabled through Homes England and Urban&Civic. I draw upon these broad experiences nearly every day and they make me more effective in creating places that people want to live in.



International
Women's Day



Johanne Thomas