

Helen is a Senior Lecturer teaching on MSc Town Planning, School of Architecture and Design. Prior to joining the University of Brighton she taught at University of Sussex before appointment as Chair of Department of Urban Development and Regeneration at the University of Westminster. These roles included supervision at Masters and Doctoral level.

A qualified town planner, Helen formerly worked in local authority planning departments before moving into central government, firstly at the Environment Agency and subsequently as Senior Policy Advisor, Skills and Knowledge Team, Neighbourhood Renewal Unit. She was appointed as Interim Research and Programme Director, Academy for Sustainable Communities; subsequently HCA Skills and Knowledge Unit at the Office of Deputy Prime Minister, now MHCLG. Here she was also associate supervisor on the joint ODPM / ESRC post doctoral research studentship programme, supervising civil servants undertaking doctoral and post-doctoral research.

Helen was appointed as National Advisor: Sustainable Communities and Partnerships, Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government and subsequently as a Specialist Adviser, House of Commons DCLG Select Committee. She advised the Inquiry into built environment skills: Planning Matters – labour shortages and skills gaps also hearings for CLG Annual Report / Performance of the Department, and Coastal Communities.

Education/Academic qualification

Helen has a BA (Hons) in Urban Studies, MA in Contemporary British History and a DPhil, University of Sussex.