



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

The Worldwide Value of Planning

Planning around the world for the public good



Some of the major challenges we face require planning

Rapid urbanisation

- More than half of humanity already lives in urban areas and every day, another 200,000 people move to or are born in cities and towns.
- Twenty-first century population growth is largely an urban phenomenon concentrated in the developing world – most future population growth will be in cities and towns in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- This has happened so quickly that a billion city-dwellers live in slums – settlements that have grown too fast for housing, power, water and transport infrastructure to keep pace.

Pollution

- A quarter of all deaths in the developing world are directly attributable to environmental factors.
- Exposure to outside air pollution causes millions of deaths each year – and it is avoidable.
- Indoor air pollution resulting from the use of solid fuels claims the lives of 1.5 million people each year, more than half of them below the age of five – 4,000 deaths each day.

Poverty and inequality

- At least 80% of the world's population live on less than \$10 a day and more than 80% live in countries where income differentials are widening.
- The poorest 40% of the world's population account for 5 percent of global income. The richest 20% account for three-quarters of world income.
- Over a billion people in developing countries cannot afford adequate access to water; 22,000 children die each day due to malnutrition and diseases exacerbated by poverty and lack of access to clean water and sanitation; 443 million school-days are lost each year from water-related illness.

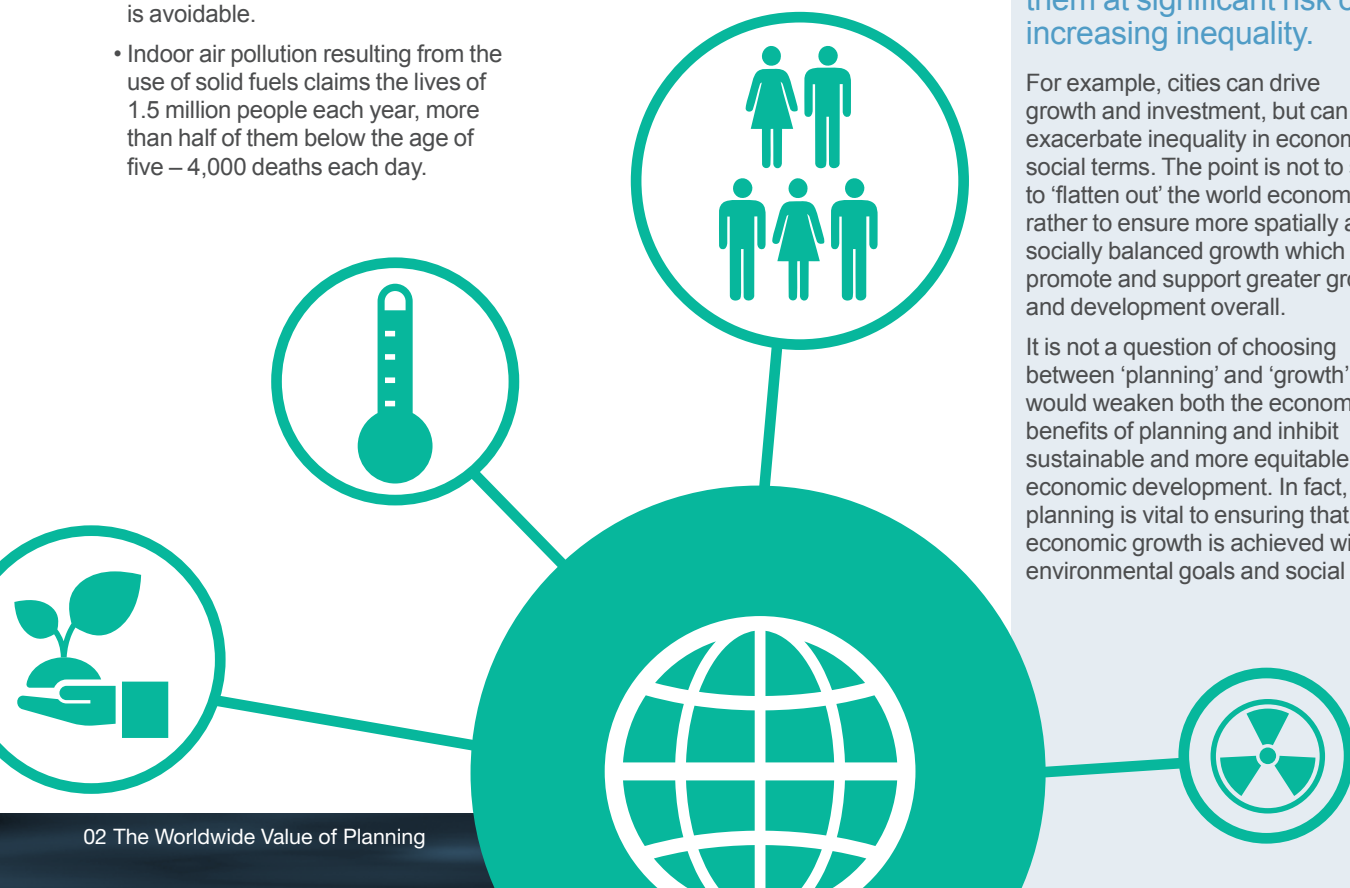
Climate change

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that as temperatures rise and warm the oceans, rainfall will increase in tropical and subtropical regions.
- Higher land temperatures could shorten the growing season for crops by up to a fifth, leading to increased risk of hunger.
- Meanwhile, life in cities could become intolerable as the urban 'heat island' effect means that cities are already hotter than the land around them.
- And as Oxfam puts it: "A hot world is a hungry world".

Globalisation can bring benefits to rapidly urbanising countries but can also put them at significant risk of increasing inequality.

For example, cities can drive growth and investment, but can also exacerbate inequality in economic and social terms. The point is not to seek to 'flatten out' the world economy, rather to ensure more spatially and socially balanced growth which could promote and support greater growth and development overall.

It is not a question of choosing between 'planning' and 'growth': that would weaken both the economic benefits of planning and inhibit sustainable and more equitable economic development. In fact, planning is vital to ensuring that economic growth is achieved with environmental goals and social equity.



Planning addresses these complex inter-related challenges by looking at the whole picture

Planning can play a vital role in:

- Promoting healthy cities
- Protecting and enhancing green infrastructure
- Providing for new transport systems
- Ensuring good quality housing
- Connecting renewable energy
- Engaging communities in designing their environments.



Favela improvements

Planned improvements in Medellín, Colombia, for example, introduced a cable car to connect deprived communities to jobs in the city centre and built 384 metres of escalators to bring tired commuters back to their mountainside homes in Comuna Trece.

Photo: mattwyn CC, flickr.com



A holistic approach

The City of Freiburg is often called Germany's 'ecological capital'. Planned sustainable transport and development has introduced high quality urban design within a strategic plan. Freiburg has been recognized internationally as one of the world's most liveable and sustainable cities.

Photo: DaniBlanchette CC, flickr.com

Planning and planners enable sustainable development

Professional planners use their analytical, creative, advocacy and implementation skills to balance competing interests in spatial plans and development projects, deliver high quality development, and protect valuable built and natural environments.

Effective and flexible planning systems and highly skilled professional planners work to improve people's health, well-being and quality of life.

Planners coordinate the development of thriving and well-balanced urban settlements with sufficient housing, jobs, facilities and transport in harmony with their wider natural environments by engaging with local people. Community engagement is vital to effective local planning and community planning is now beginning to spread around the world.



International benefits of planning for people



Strengthen communities

Two examples of planning helping to heal divides

Gubin, Poland and Guben, Germany

In the late 1990s, planners in the German city of Guben and the Polish city of Gubin, either side of the River Neiße, have worked together on a common programme for the united development of the two half-cities divided since 1945.

Photo: MirkoK_1980 CC, flickr.com

Nicosia

Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot planners are working together today to plan the future of Europe's last divided city, Nicosia.

Photo: Son of Groucho CC, flickr.com



Enable economic growth

Sydney, Australia

Sydney Olympic Park, constructed for the 2000 Games, is now a growing, economically sustainable residential suburb of Sydney attracting large numbers of visitors to what had once been degraded land. Venues were designed with the emphasis on energy and water conservation, sustainable materials, pollution control, and waste management and minimisation.

Photo: Ilee_wu CC, flickr.com



Encourage place making

Kibera, Kenya

Kibera in Nairobi, Kenya, was a blank spot on the map until November 2009, when young Kiberans created the first free and open digital map of their own community. Map Kibera has now grown into a complete interactive community information project.

Photo: klndonnely CC, flickr.com



Involve local communities

Choma, Zambia

Local authorities in **Zambia** have embarked on an ambitious programme of Integrated Development Programmes to identify priority needs and explore ways to deliver services. Through Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), UK planners are helping local authorities set up public consultations, list urgent issues and raise awareness of the importance of a co-ordinated approach e.g. dealing with waste in order to avoid health problems.

Photo: Ros Ward



Conserve environments

Cornwall, UK

Heartlands in Pool, Cornwall transformed a derelict part of the county's mining heritage into an inspirational cultural and recreational landscape. Historic mine buildings were preserved to provide an accessible tourist attraction while the community centre provides a series of flexible spaces for meetings and conferences, exhibition space for local artists and outdoor performance spaces. The regeneration has provided a catalyst to further investment within the surrounding area.

Photo: Simon Burt



Promote sustainable development

Vienna, Austria

Vienna's award-winning 'soft urban renewal' puts people and their views first in a model urban renovation programme being shared with other cities in Eastern Europe. Started in 1984 it is based on consultation on change rather than demolition of run-down neighbourhoods and compulsory relocation.

Photo: City of Vienna Department of Housing Construction Research and International Relations



Provide for infrastructure

Yakutsk, Siberia

In **Yakutsk, Siberia**, planners drew up a cold-climate urban development plan for the city which experiences very low temperatures in winter. Implemented in 2009 and 2010, it provides a new drainage system, better roads, a landscaped environment, new apartments for 5,000 families and has retrofitted buildings to make them energy efficient.

Photo: Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna CAFF CC, flickr.com



The RTPI celebrated its centenary in 2014...

The RTPI is a membership organisation, a learned society and a registered charity. Its purpose is to promote the science and art of town and country planning in the public interest.

The RTPI has 23,000 members in the UK and around the world, it accredits planning schools and it sets and enforces standards for education, training and professional conduct.

We are proud of planning and proud of planners.

...and looking ahead to the next 100 years



Professional planning was established 100 years ago. In one sense, we face many of the same challenges now as we did a century ago: now as then we need quality affordable housing, improved public health particularly in cities, and we need to balance economic development with the protection of the environment.

In other respects, we are confronted by a wholly new set of challenges, such as climate change, demographic shifts (including an ageing society), the rise of 'lifestyle diseases', and ever-increasing competition and rising inequality in a globalised world.

The RTPI is looking ahead to the next 100 years with five national and international themes, which are:

1. Promoting sustainable development
2. Ensuring a spatial dimension in planning for development
3. Promoting economic and housing growth with planned infrastructure
4. Encouraging planned urbanisation to secure health and well-being
5. Making decisions as locally as possible to strengthen effective governance.

Planners have a critical role to play in response to all of these issues. Just as the challenges of a hundred years ago spurred the development of planning as a professional discipline and as a field of study, so the challenges we face over the next hundred years will demand new contributions from the profession and beyond.

Reflecting these themes, the RTPI's *Planning Horizons* papers, published during the Institute's centenary year in 2014, take a long term as well as global view of planning and the contribution it can make to some of the major challenges we face in the 21st Century.

The five *Planning Horizons* reports are:

- *Planning Horizons: Thinking Spatially* (June 2014)
- *Planning Horizons: Future-Proofing Society* (June 2014)
- *Planning Horizons: Promoting Healthy Cities* (October 2014)
- *Planning Horizons: Creating Economically Successful Places* (November 2014)
- *Planning Horizons: Making Better Decisions for Places* (November 2014)

For more information see: www.rtpi.org.uk/planninghorizons

Playing our part in achieving a more sustainable world



We work with a range of international partners to deliver our mission by sharing knowledge and best practice to influence national governments and international agencies.

The “Charter of European Planning” of the ECTP-CEU (European Council of Spatial Planners) promotes spatial planning to secure balanced economic development, increased social justice and vital ecosystems across Europe.

For more information see:
www.ectp-ceu.eu

The Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) stands up for planning with Commonwealth Heads of Government, most recently at their Sri Lanka meeting in late 2013. CAP helped to make the final communiqué a ringing endorsement of the core values of planning for climate change, health, marine areas and small island states, governance, gender equality and “sustainable, inclusive and equitable development”.

For more information see:
www.commonwealth-planners.org

The Global Planners Network (GPN) sets out the mission of planners to:

- Guide urbanisation to address urban sprawl
- Manage the needs of youth, the elderly and shrinking cities
- Facilitate economic growth
- Address climate change
- Secure water supplies, flood prevention and pollution control and improve health
- Reduce discrimination and recognise local traditions and culture to guide local planning
- Develop ways to coordinate decision making from local to national
- Improve planning education to embrace innovation including community participation.

For more information see:
www.globalplannersnetwork.org

Planners can't do everything, but they can weigh up competing needs and they can work with national governments, public agencies, land owners, private developers, local authorities and local communities to achieve sustainable development to meet local and wider needs. They encourage openness, public participation and evidence-based policy-making to create the right conditions to meet the challenges of the future.

The RTPI promotes the worldwide value of planning with its international partners to help tackle global planning issues.

The RTPI's international mission is to:

- Promote effective spatial planning
- Build local capacity for planning
- Help networking between planners
- Meet both local and wider needs
- Balance environmental, economic and social needs
- Conserve natural and heritage environments.

23,000



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