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Current Challenges in English Spatial Planning – wider lessons for planning

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Moderator: Prof. Sylvia He



The English planning system has been subject to constant reform – or threats of reform – for decades. The current, Labour, Government shares the view of previous Government's that planning is a block on development and has a number of initiatives to try to address this perception.

Current issues include: the challenge of meeting housing and development targets whilst meeting environmental protection targets; a revival of sub-regional planning coupled with changes to local government powers and boundaries; looking again at the potential for capturing the uplift in land values generated through development; a clear wariness of public involvement in planning where it threatens the drive for development; a revival of a (much watered-down) new towns programme and the need for, and problems of, investing in infrastructure.

Kelvin's talk will look at all these issues – and more – but will seek to draw out wider lessons for planning policy and practice.

About the speaker:

Kelvin is Chair of the RTPI Partnership Board at CUHK. He is a bye-Fellow and the Director of Studies in Land Economy at Christ's College, Cambridge and a Senior Departmental Fellow in the Department of Land Economy. He was the Specialist Adviser to the House of Lords Built Environment Committee for its inquiries into 'The Impact of Environmental Regulations on Development', 'The Grey Belt' and 'New Towns: Practical Delivery' and was the permanent Specialist Adviser on planning policy to the House of Commons Communities, Housing and Local Government Select Committee from 2003 to 2024. He is a member of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government College of Experts and a policy adviser to The Housing Policy and Delivery Oversight Committee. He has been an Examining Inspector dealing with major infrastructure projects for the Planning Inspectorate and, earlier, Director of Policy and Research and then the Chief Policy Adviser to the Royal Town Planning Institute. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Shelter and interim Chair of Shelter Scotland.

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