



Planning Place Shaping Together

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction



- The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) represents over 27,000 planning professionals, in 88 Countries.
- **Championing Planning** – Advocating for the value of planning in creating sustainable, resilient, and inclusive communities.
- **Shaping Policy** – Influencing government policy and legislation to support effective planning systems.
- **Promoting Professional Standards** – Upholding ethical and professional standards for planners through accreditation and CPD.
- **Supporting Members** – Providing training, resources, and a professional network to support planners at all career stages.



Presidential Theme

- **“Championing collaboration, investment, and inclusivity for a resilient planning profession”**



RTPI

Royal Town Planning Institute

Introduction

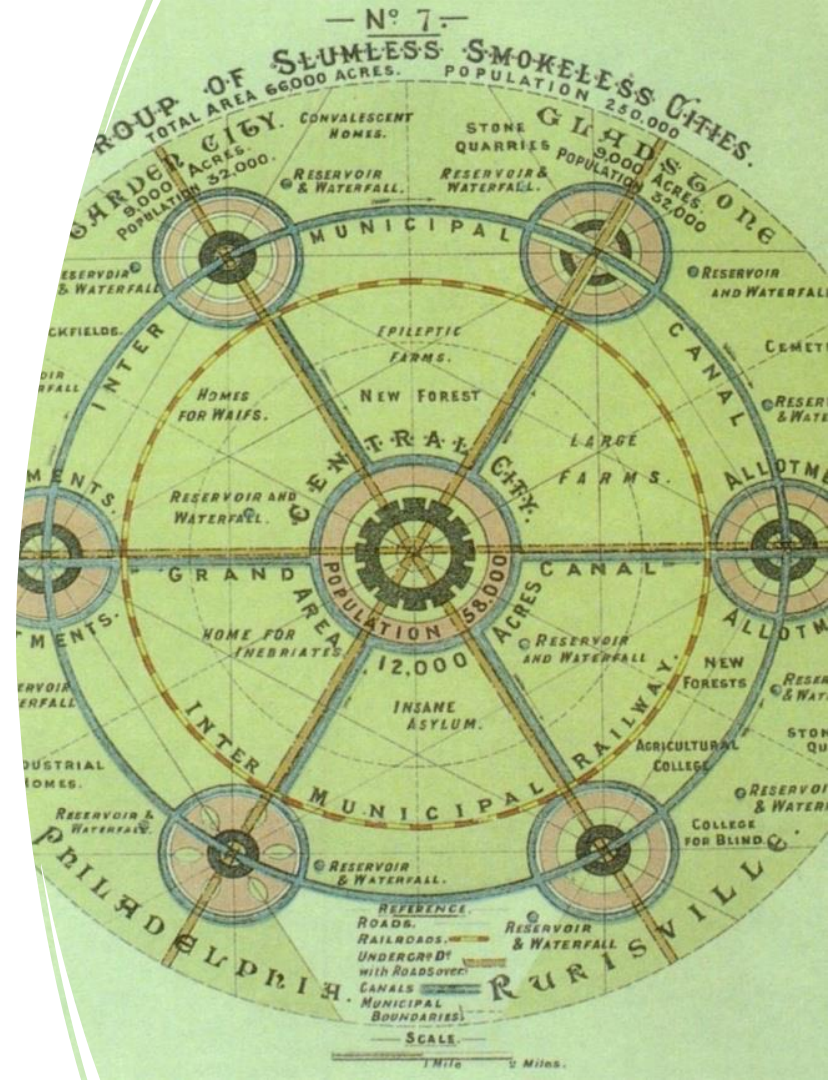
Planning is about people and places, not just infrastructure.

Culture is a key driver of economic activity, wellbeing, and community engagement.

RTPI champions the integration of cultural planning into mainstream practice.

The History of Cultural Planning

- Garden City Movement (Ebenezer Howard) promoted cultural and social wellbeing.
- Post-industrial cities (e.g., Barcelona, Berlin) used culture as a driver for regeneration.
- UK City of Culture programme has revitalised places like Hull and Coventry.



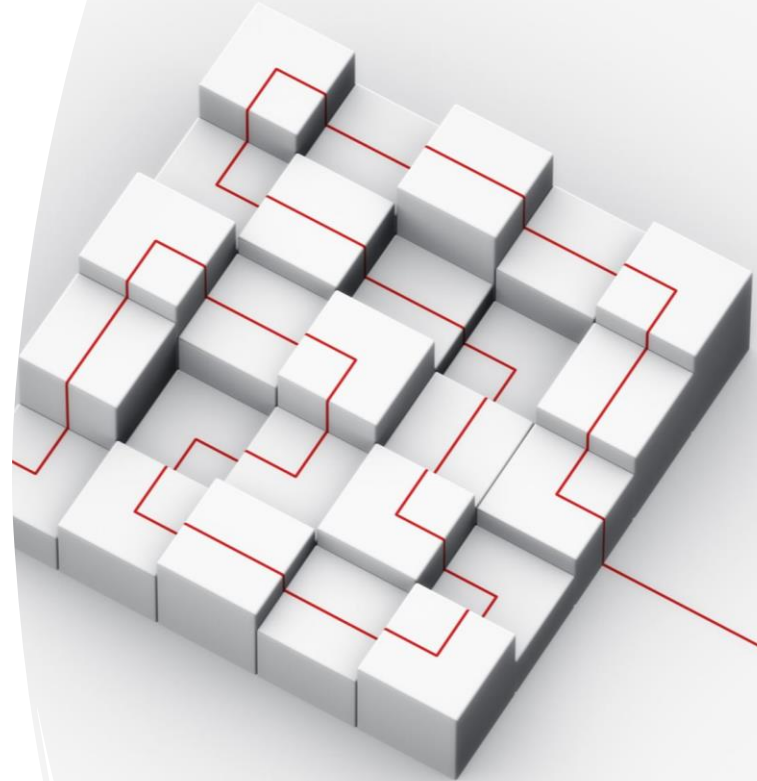
Current Challenges in Cultural Planning

- Funding constraints – culture often seen as secondary to housing and infrastructure.
 - Affordable Housing vs. Cultural spaces
- Space pressures – creative spaces at risk due to urban redevelopment.
 - Developer profitability vs. community benefit
- Policy gaps and lack of cultural integration
- Planning integration – culture is still not embedded in mainstream planning.
- Inclusivity – cultural planning must reflect diverse communities.



The Role of Planners at Local & Regional Levels

- Local and regional planners shape spaces for culture, business, and social inclusion.
- Protecting heritage assets and repurposing them for cultural and economic regeneration.
- Embedding cultural planning into Local Plans to protect and create vibrant communities.
- Ensuring resources for cultural infrastructure
- Engaging stakeholders in cultural planning



Collaboration: The Importance of Partnership Working

- Collaboration between planners, local authorities, and developers is key.
- Support from cultural institutions and community organisations essential.
- Early community engagement in planning
- Joint initiatives to shape vibrant place

Examples: Creative Estuary project, Kent County Council's Cultural Planning Toolkit.



Investment



Funding mechanisms for cultural projects



Economic incentives for developers



Supporting cultural-led regeneration



Investing in Creative Hubs

"The UK is second only to the US as an international hub for investment in the creative industries, according to a new analysis of trends in investment trends over 10 years and also since COVID."

[Attracting international investment in UK creative industries should be a priority new report](#)



Inclusivity : Planning for Culture

- Protect heritage and creative areas from commercial pressures.
- Design public spaces for cultural engagement and artistic expression.
- Equitable distribution of cultural infrastructure
- Ensure access to culture for all, fostering inclusive and diverse communities.
- Representation of diverse communities in planning
- Support local people



The National Cultural Planning Toolkit

- Prepared by Planners for Planners
- Developed by Creative Estuary & Kent County Council
- Provides guidance for cultural integration in planning
- Supports local and regional cultural development

NATIONAL CULTURAL PLANNING TOOLKIT

A toolkit with model policies to assist local planning authorities and their partners to plan for cultural provision.

The National Cultural Planning Toolkit has been commissioned by Creative Estuary in partnership with Kent County Council.

It has been created by the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) and Urban Roots Consulting as a resource for cultural planning in England.

The phrase cultural planning is used to describe a process that supports place making through considering what arts and cultural infrastructure can be secured through development, redevelopment and the land use planning process.

This National toolkit, written by Planners for Planners, sets out the importance of local plan policies and good governance structures to enable the planned development of cultural infrastructure as an essential part of shaping local places where people and diverse communities can thrive.



Conclusion

- RTPI supports embedding culture into planning policy and practice.
- Culture is a necessity, not a luxury.
- Through collaboration and strategic planning, we can create sustainable, creative, and inclusive communities.
- Collaborate, invest, ensure inclusivity and shape places where communities thrive



Photo credit: Urban Splash



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Thank you
for listening

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