

RTPI 2017 Nathaniel Litchfield Lecture

By Prof Peter Head CBE FREng FRSA

“Planning for Sustainable Development”

193 UN member states, including UK, adopted the Sustainable Development Goals on September 25th 2015. These 17 goals and objectives are transformational with respect to inclusive growth-leaving no-one behind in having access to basic services, education and healthcare plus transforming energy systems to avert climate change, adapting to climate change risks like intense rainfall and the critical management of resources to allow ecological systems to recover. A target is set to achieve the outcomes by 2030.

The UK National Planning Policy Framework introduced in 2012 has a presumption in favour of sustainable development, described as “a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking” but we do not have the tools and capacity to carry out this complex work.

Peter anticipated this problem and set up a Charity in 2011 to investigate, develop and prototype the tools and approaches needed to enable planning for sustainable development to proceed successfully in UK and around the world. He brought together world leaders in many disciplines, including systems modellers, to do this and the Charity aims to make these tools available open-source and free to use from 2022 once they are fully tested. Already the wiki document Roadmap 2030 is available setting out the principles for this. In the lecture Peter will describe what he has learned and how he believes we have a great opportunity to attract the necessary \$3trillion per year of finance globally to move progress forward. He will offer to work with UK regions over the next 5 years, as part of a global programme of 200 demonstrators, to evolve a collaborative approach

to transformational planning involving communities and recognising their cultural history as a starting point for change.

<http://ecosequestrust.org/roadmap2030.pdf>