



HIGHBURY PLANNING
CONSULTANTS

Profession

Town Planner

Current Position

Director, Highbury Planning
Consultants Limited

Qualifications

BA (Hons) Town & Country
Planning, 1976 (Liverpool)

Professional Associations

Fellow, Royal Town Planning
Institute, 1983

Awards

1976 RTPI Prize Student

2006 Waterways Renaissance
Awards, Foxton Locks Masterplan,
Commended

2007 RTPI Planning Consultancy
of the Year (with Arup)

2008 RTPI Silver Jubilee Cup for
CTRL

Career

Highbury Planning Consultants
Limited, Director
May 2009 - ongoing

Ove Arup and Partners, London
Associate Director
June 2003 – April 2009

Colin Buchanan & Partners
Director, 1999 - 2003

CTRL (Joint Consents Team)
Deputy Manager
1997 - 1999

Planning Authority
Head of Strategic Planning
Government of Malta, 1991 – 97

Planning & Consents Team,
Channel Tunnel, Consultant
1987 – 1991

Shankland Cox, Consultant
United Arab Emirates, 1986

Town and Planning Department,
Government of Brunei
Deputy Commissioner
1979 - 1985

Runcorn New Town Development
Corporation, Planner
1976 – 1979

Liverpool City Planning
Department, Planning Assistant
1973 - 1974

Chris Stratford, FRTPI

Short CV

Summary Profile

A Planner and Sustainable Plan Making, Consents and Regeneration specialist, with nearly 35 years of wide-ranging experience, also undertaking project coordination and planning legislation and procedures in the public and private sectors. Principal experience is in regional and urban planning, regional and sub regional planning studies, masterplans/development frameworks, land use plans and studies, planning briefs and feasibility studies, public, stakeholder and Members consultation. Also, Chris has specialist expertise in gaining and coordinating planning consents for major projects in the public sector leading and managing major, complex projects and studies and presenting at Board/Council Committee level.

Key Achievements

2004 – 2008 Business development (Arup) – set up 5 regional office planning teams, growing from 3 staff to over 40 staff in six offices, generating significant growth in fees and profits. Involved in preparing and winning key projects.

2004 – 2009 Staff management (Arup) – created performance and resource management processes and culture supporting team expansion from 30 to over 80 fee earners based across six UK offices over five years. This included staff meetings via video conferencing, the team Intranet site, recruitment, appraisals, dealing with staff problems/monitoring, all leading to performance improvements.

2007 Peterborough Integrated Growth Study (Arup) – led an innovative study with a multi-disciplined team of 20 professionals creating an overarching sustainable framework for growth that represented a major part of the Council's Core Strategy. Also, provided exemplars methodologies, innovative solutions and fully supported proposals that the client, Government and RTPI recognised.

1999 – 2003 New Business and Team Set Up (Colin Buchanan) – set up new team for strategic, infrastructure and overseas planning that grew to 8 staff generating significant fees. Undertook several key major projects for public bodies in the UK, Ireland and Montserrat.

1991 Islington Green Planning Brief and Consents Project – a ground breaking development project in central Islington, partnering the Council, developer and community group. Conceived a new joint approach to preparing a Planning Brief (endorsed by the Council), prepared outline scheme designs and an outline planning application.

Channel Tunnel and on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (HS1) – project management and in planning and development consents and related legislation.

Summary Experience

UK

Regional planning (East of England) and sub regional studies (Cambridge), Environmental Impact Assessment preparation, Green Belt development issues, housing land supply and major project planning consents. Since 2005, has worked on major planning consents, Development and Regeneration Frameworks and Masterplans for various local authorities, UDC, URCs and other Agencies.

Chris has a reputation for successful technical project management for major planning studies, planning frameworks and complex consents projects, often involving intensive stakeholder, public and Members consultation. He excels in leading teams, undertaken public sector plan-making and policy preparation, consultation, strategic planning (sub regional and local authority level) and preparing sound and robust planning documentation and linking plan making and consents. Key projects have been presented to Boards and Council Committees.



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Overseas

This comprises 13 years in a different range of public sector projects – Brunei (Deputy Commissioner for the national Planning Authority), UAE (Implementation Advisor for the Eastern Region Masterplan), Malta (Manager of the Strategic Planning Unit), the Caribbean (preparing a new capital town Action Area Plan in Montserrat) and Ireland (sub regional and urban planning projects).

Area Action Plan preparation, regional policy and development, international planning competition procedures and evaluation and strategic land use planning issues at regional and national levels. Undertaking development coordination for a regional/urban planning authority and the implementation of its Structure Plan - preparing an Implementation Strategy, national Subject Plans/Studies, Integrated Development Programme and capital budgeting, action area planning and development briefs, establishment of a National Park, major project assessment and coordination of planning for a large, mixed use development. Advice on the gaining of planning consents for major public and private sector projects.

Current Work

London Borough of Barnet Open Spaces, Sports and Recreational Facilities

Needs Assessment (May 2009 – ongoing) – to assist in finalising the PPG 17 assessment involving policy reviews, survey of 300 sites, developing a methodology, analysis and recommendations for quantity, accessibility, quality standards and improvements that was previously undertaken whilst at Arup

Aylesbury Town Centre Masterplan (Sept 2009 – ongoing) – for Aylesbury Vale Advantage (AVA), the conversion of Draft Masterplan to Final, with extensive engagement with AVDC/BCC Members and stakeholders, project selection methodology and priority project selection, assistance with additional supporting studies, amend Draft Masterplan and attain approval of the Masterplan from AVA Board and Aylesbury Vale District Council /Buckinghamshire County Council

Key Projects and Contributions

Aylesbury Town Centre Draft Masterplan (Oct 2008 – May 2009) – a wider town centre masterplan covering Vision, proposals to suit the current economic climate and the longer term and focused on deliverability for a client group of Aylesbury Vale Advantage, AVDC, EP, Vale of Aylesbury PCT and SEEDA.

Hendon and East End NDC Regeneration Framework (2005 and April 2008 – Sept 2009) – Project Director for the preparation of a Framework (following completion of a NRA survey) with both the NDC and Sunderland City Council for the improvement of the area and as an input to the Core Strategy.

Peterborough Integrated Growth Study (April 2007 – Feb 2008) as above.

Brixton Town Centre Framework (Jan 2007 – Feb 2008) – Project Director to update and develop previous work that involves developing a Vision, establishing objectives and parameters, develop Masterplan, identify relevant options, provide design guidance, develop outline work packages/ briefs for key sites.

NIRAH Freshwater Visitor Experience and Science Park, Bedford (May 2005 – Oct 2007) – preparation of an outline planning application including an ES, TA and RCI (including all relevant consultation) for this major, national tourist facility, research centre and science park (similar to the Eden project).

Masterplan and Major Planning Applications (OPA) for BSKyB in Osterley (Jan 2005 – Sept 2007) – planning history research, planning context and policy analysis inputs and preparation of planning application strategy, plus its implementation and preparation of OPA, negotiation of S106 Agreement and



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securing approval. Submission of planning applications for key major buildings.

Regeneration Framework for London Riverside (March 2005 – Jan 2007) – overall project director (leading 5 other sub consultants) and planning and regeneration inputs to major spatial framework for LTGUDC and the LDA.

Foxton Locks Masterplan (March – May 2005) – Project Director for masterplan for funding for British Waterways to develop a major tourist attraction based on its historic importance. Commended in the Strategy and Masterplanning category at the BURA Waterway Renaissance Awards 2006.

Stansted/M11 Corridor Development Options Study (April - June 2003) – Study Director to examine the urbanisation implications of four possible growth scenarios for Stansted Airport on a wider sub regional study area. Examined key issues, developed possible spatial options, offered preferred recommendations on each possible scenario, as an input to RPG14.

Shell Haven, Thurrock (May 2002 – June 2003) – directed a multi-disciplined team of consultants assessing and responding to the environmental assessment and supporting planning documents submitted by P&O/Shell for outline planning consent and development of a strategy for negotiations.

East of England Regional Economic Strategy Sub Regional Study (Oct 2001 – Oct 2002) – supervision of team to determine the land use and transport implications of pursuing an enhanced economic growth scenario. This work informed the new RPG 14 and Structure Plan/UDP Reviews.

Cambridge Sub-Region Study (May 2000 – Sept 2001) – led multi-disciplined team for an assessment of options for new housing, supporting its world/national role in knowledge-based industries and heritage.

Little Bay Town Centre Action Area Plan, Montserrat (Feb 2001 – June 2002) – preparing a plan for a new capital town centre, following the destruction of Plymouth by volcanic activity. It involved an SEA, assessment of infrastructure requirements, feasibility assessments and preparation of marketing packages.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link, (RLE)/Bechtel (1997-99) - the CTRL project has won a number of prestigious awards including: 'RTPI Silver Jubilee Cup Winner for High Speed 1' 2008 and the London Mayor's Award 'Planning Excellence - HS 1 Rail Link' 2008 - deputy to the Manager of the Planning and Consents Team (PACT), with a staff of 30, responsible for gaining all planning and heritage consents for the Project (some 500), within an agreed programme.

Planning Authority (PA), Government of Malta (1991-97)
 Management of the Strategic Planning Unit (of some 25 staff); member of Steering Committee for a major mixed use development project (£350 million); and, member of various Government inter-departmental liaison committees.

Consultant, Islington Green Development Project, London, Local Community Group and Imry Merchant Developers (1991) – as above.

Joint Consents Team, Channel Tunnel Project, Eurotunnel and Transmanche Link (1987-90) - member of a team responsible for preparation of planning and technical submissions to obtain consents, involving extensive consultations with the client and contractor, local planning authorities, Government departments, statutory authorities and environmental bodies.

Senior Planner/Development Coordinator, Implementation Stage of Master Plan for Al Ain and Region, Shankland Cox, UAE (1986)
 Senior member of team, working with the Town Planning Department (TPD), to improve its operation, coordination of planning functions and assistance in the



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development process and advice on Structure Plan implementation.

Acting Deputy Commissioner Town and Country Planning Department, Government of Brunei (1979-85) - preparation of ToR and coordination of an international competition for the State of Brunei Master Plan (recommendations on selection, analysis of short-listed submissions and technical advice).

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