



Introduction by Peter Kershaw from the influential Planning and Placemaking Awards 2016 shortlisted Paris Smith LLP Planning Team. Peter is also a regular authoritative guest author for the subscription only Legalease Procurement and Outsourcing Journal and can be connected with on LinkedIn.

*The 'housing crisis' in England is a crisis like no other. It is one that has been slowly slithering towards us in full view for multiple decades now - silently constricting its coils around our economies without resistance.*

*A lack of infrastructure and a lack of appropriate housing in some areas has resulted in large proportions of our elderly and younger generations being stuck in housing unsuitable to enable them to live independent lives in - and leaving them stranded in inappropriate locations which cause feelings of isolation and despair.*

I believe innovative and forward thinking economic development leaders and investors have an historic opportunity today to use this conference as a catalyst for working together

with private and public sector stakeholders to seize and maximise the finite development opportunities which are emerging in the current political and economic spotlight.

For too many people the times haven't changed and as stakeholders we can only hope that we use our moment in the spotlight - without any later regrets - to do whatever we can to work together to try and help change those times for the better.

If you would like to set up an introductory meeting with Paris Smith LLP's experienced Planning team to discuss your planning, planning law or public consultation needs; please email: [peter.kershaw@parissmith.co.uk](mailto:peter.kershaw@parissmith.co.uk) or: [ruth.harding@parissmith.co.uk](mailto:ruth.harding@parissmith.co.uk)

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