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He is an advisor on strategic and metropolitan planning, urban design, effective partnership working and public participation. He has held a range of senior management posts in local government responsible for strategic and local plans, and the implementation of major urban renewal, heritage and countryside projects. This included establishing the joint statutory planning system for the metropolitan Glasgow region, which has been accepted as a model of best practice in UK and the basis of the European benchmarking for delivering effective metropolitan planning;

He is an advisor to a range of bodies including the Design Council-Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and to the Prince's Foundation. He has worked with a range of international bodies including the European METREX network of metropolitan authorities, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the University of Pennsylvania, the America 2050 project the European Environment Agency, ICLEI and the Global Planners' Network.