Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena: Report 2012

Produced by the Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform

MISTRA
**URBAN
FUTURES**
GREATER MANCHESTER

FOREWORD

Mistra Urban Futures (M-UF) is an international centre for sustainable urban futures, based in Gothenburg, Sweden. Mistra Urban Futures was established in 2010 with a vision to increase capacities to transform current, unsustainable urban development pathways to more sustainable urban futures in the global South and North.

M-UF believes that co-production is the way to achieve sustainable urban futures and that this process should focus specifically on the creation of Fair, Green and Dense cities. The co-production of Fair, Green and Dense cities is a complex challenge that requires interaction between a variety of bodies. M-UF has established Local Interaction Platforms (LIP) in five cities – Cape Town, Gothenburg, Greater Manchester, Kisumu, and Shanghai - and an Urban Futures Arena (UF-Arena), which supports collaboration and learning across and within each LIP.

The Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform (GM LIP) is hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures (SURF) at the University of Salford in Greater Manchester. The platform runs until 2015. Our overall aim is to improve the relationship between research and practice in creating a sustainable Greater Manchester and, thereby, to enable a more systematic, integrated and inclusive urban transition.

In 2012 we embarked on a large project entitled 'Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena'. This project sought to develop a baseline assessment of developments, issues and initiatives in the city-region through a range of pilot activities. We mapped the existing knowledge base in sustainable urban development, explored gaps, identified novel practices, assessed the extent of joined-up thinking, engaged with different groups and sought to locate the Greater Manchester experience in its contemporary UK context.

A series of pilot activities were designed to cut across policy, academic, business, community and cultural groups through different modes of knowledge production and the deployment of innovative modes and tools, including community researchers, focus groups and seminars, generating action-research projects, an exhibition, working with artists, co-reflection and visual methods such as film and photography.

This is the synthesis report of that project. There are also a series of Working Papers which summarise work to date and in progress. Drawing on the insights from the pilot activities, a Programme of Work for 2013-2015 has now been developed which takes forward the key themes and issues into research and practice activities.

We hope you enjoy reading this report. Get in touch via b.perry@salford.ac.uk if you would like to discuss any of these issues, themes or projects in more detail.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DEDICATION

We would like to dedicate this report to the memory of Martin Halton. We worked closely with Martin, former Research Manager at the Seedley and Langworthy Trust in Salford, in many of our activities in 2012. He had a great commitment to the regeneration of Salford and creation of more sustainable communities in our inner city areas.

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

AGMA	Association of Greater Manchester Authorities
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CPD	Continuous Professional Development
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CV	Curriculum Vitae
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council
FEI	Further Education Institutes
GM	Greater Manchester
GMCA	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
GMCVO	Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations
GM LIP	Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform
GMS	Greater Manchester Strategy
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
LIP	Local Interaction Platform
LSOA	Lower Super Output Areas
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
MEEN	Manchester Environmental Education Network
MIER	Manchester Independent Economic Review
M-UF	Mistra Urban Futures
SALT	Seedley and Langworthy Trust
SUD	Sustainable Urban Development
SURF	Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UK	United Kingdom

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INTRODUCTION
Mistra Urban Futures and the Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform

The Mistra Urban Futures project, that's a very practical thing about plugging gaps, getting on with stuff, ensuring that 'ideas people' are talking to 'money people' are talking to 'policy people' – because without interaction we can't start delivering on any of this.

Stakeholder, Manchester: A Certain Future

Towards Sustainable Cities

Cities are old. The first cities grew out of the need for trade, transport, natural resources and people to come together to share their knowledge, skills and infrastructure.

Global population growth is estimated to peak around 2080, with around 9 billion people inhabiting Earth. Two thirds of all these people will live in cities. The world we now live in is urban. Cities are sources of challenge and problems; inspiration and innovation. Love them or loathe them, cities are on the rise and the challenge of creating sustainable cities is one that must concern us all.

The urbanization of the world brings with it a series of far-reaching challenges. Future cities need to be dynamic and just to deliver quality of life to all urban citizens. They also need to be efficient and robust to overcome resource scarcity, environmental degradation and global risks such as climate change.

In the 1980s, a group of world leaders defined sustainability as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

World organisations have gone on to state that sustainability involves thinking about how the economy, society, environment and culture all relate to each other.

Agreeing on the principles is not easy. Many have been critical of how useful the term 'sustainability' is. Some think it just means 'business as usual' rather than any fundamental change in how we think, work and live.

Yet putting ideas into practice at an urban level is even harder. Whose needs are we talking about? Who decides whose needs come first? Complex urban problems that require joined-up thinking can fall between the cracks.

Mistra Urban Futures

Mistra Urban Futures is an international centre for sustainable urban futures, with headquarters in Gothenburg, Sweden. Mistra Urban Futures was set up because academics and local stakeholders in Gothenburg recognised that new ways of addressing urban challenges were needed if cities were to become truly sustainable. In 2010 the Mistra Urban Futures centre was born with a vision "to increase capacities to transform current, unsustainable urban development pathways to more sustainable urban futures in the global South and North".

A key principle for the Centre is co-production – simply put, the idea that we need to combine, integrate and share knowledge better if more sustainable urban futures are to be achieved. Sustainability is a complex term. For Mistra Urban Futures, it is about the creation of Fair, Green and Dense cities.
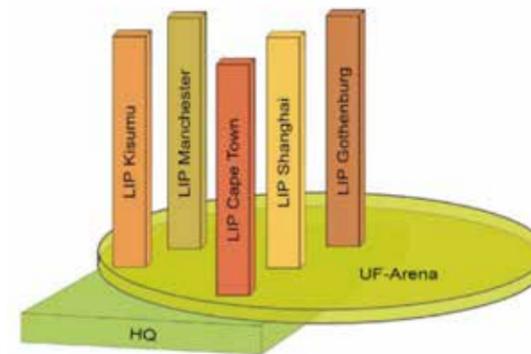
How can this be done? Mistra Urban Futures believes the answer lies in Local Interaction Platforms – or LIPs. It has set up interaction platforms in five cities – Cape Town (South Africa), Gothenburg (Sweden), Greater Manchester (England), Kisumu (Kenya) and Shanghai (China). All of the LIPs are co-funded and made up of local partnerships between public, private and voluntary organizations.

The Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform

The Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform (GM LIP) is hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures (SURF) at the University of Salford in Greater Manchester. The University of Salford has supported the development of the GM LIP in the first stages, reflecting its commitment to contributing to sustainability across the city-region.

Our approach to the GM LIP draws on previous work carried out at the Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures on different forms of urbanism.

We have examined the rise of knowledge-based discourses and the ways in which cities have been positioned by and responded to the challenges of climate change. Our studies have contributed to a body of literature on how the promises of the smart, knowledge, creative or eco-city have not always delivered – certainly not for the vast majority of urban dwellers – and not in ways that could be understood as 'sustainable' from a broader planetary perspective.

The overall aim of the GM LIP is to improve the relationship between research and practice in creating a sustainable Greater Manchester, and, thereby, to enable a more systematic, integrated and inclusive urban transition. Our approach involves working with a broad range of bodies across Greater Manchester on a range of research, practice and capacity-building activities to address two central questions:

- What is happening to the sustainable cities agenda in the context of the economic, political, social and ecological crises of the 21st Century?
- In this context, how can the knowledge and skills of different stakeholders and communities be brought together to support a more sustainable urban transition in Greater Manchester?

The Platform has Three Phases.

- Phase 1 (2010-2011) emphasised securing co-funding for the GM LIP locally through a strategic Memorandum of Understanding signed between University of Salford and Chalmers Universities, network building, local engagement and profile raising.

• Phase 2 (2011-2012) piloted discrete co-production activities through the 'Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena' project. Each pilot activity was carried out in partnership between SURF and city-regional stakeholders to identify gaps, challenges and options for future collaborative work.

• Phase 3 (2013-2015) will comprise a programme of work at the research-practice interface, building on the Mistra-Urban Futures ethos, the context and challenges of GM, existing and emerging research questions and the pilot activities.

All Mistra Urban Futures LIPs are co-funded as a condition of participation in the Centre. In Phase 1 the GM LIP was solely co-funded by the University of Salford. In Phase 2 of the GM LIP, additional co-funding in-kind has been generated through partnerships with policy, business and community partners, as well as individuals giving time in-kind. In Phase 3 the University of Salford's pump-priming contributions continue, whilst co-funding in-kind and through associated projects will comprise a greater proportion of funding on the platform.

The Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena Report 2012

This report highlights the activities, themes and results from the pilot project 'Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena'. A series of accompanying Working Papers for each activity strand have also been produced by different partners. An overall Annual Report for Mistra Urban Futures, reporting across the five different LIPs, is also available.

The report seeks to tell the story of the Greater Manchester LIP - in a heavily condensed way - for a broader audience. It aims to speak to partners across different sectors and communities in Greater Manchester. Academic papers and other kinds of outputs are in development, building on existing presentations and working papers – a full list can be seen in Annex 2.

A number of resources – including the working papers, case studies, exhibition materials and images - are being worked up for dissemination via an online space – PLATFORM. This is a digital portal for Greater Manchester developed by Creative Concern, the SURF Centre and the Greater Manchester Low Carbon Hub. See http://www.ontheplatform.org.uk

The Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena project in 2012 has shaped the development of a programme of work for the period 2013-2015. This is also set out in Chapter 3.

CHAPTER 1
Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena Project, 2012

They've cut so many posts – the rudder is not connected to the helm anymore and when you go and talk to people nobody really knows what's going on because they're sort of left in the void
— Local stakeholder, 2011

Context

Greater Manchester is a city-region of 2.6m people in the North West of England. Recent analyses have placed Greater Manchester as the UK's largest functional economic area after London. It comprises 10 Local Authorities: Manchester, Trafford, Salford, Oldham, Rochdale, Bury, Bolton, Stockport, Wigan and Tameside. Since 2009 the Greater Manchester Combined Authority was launched and a Local Enterprise Partnership has been introduced to replace the North West Regional Development Agency, which had responsibility for economic development between 1999 and 2012. Some local authorities, such as Salford, now have directly elected mayors. Governance structures are therefore diverse and changing.

Greater Manchester is a city-region of many contrasts, facing old and new challenges. It has a mix of strong economic centres close to some of the most deprived communities in the country. Development is tightly connected to its industrial heritage, whilst emerging economic sectors are in areas such as media and creative industries or green technologies. Growth in the 1990s was based largely on a flourishing service sector, largely concentrated in the urban cores.

Yet traditional problems persist: a poor and ageing infrastructure, rising unemployment, deprived communities and socio-economic inequalities.

As of 2007, over 30% of lower super output areas (LSOAs) in Greater Manchester were in the worst 10% nationally. Recent estimates place the number of economically inactive at 1.2m, raising questions over the spread of benefits associated with service-led economic growth.
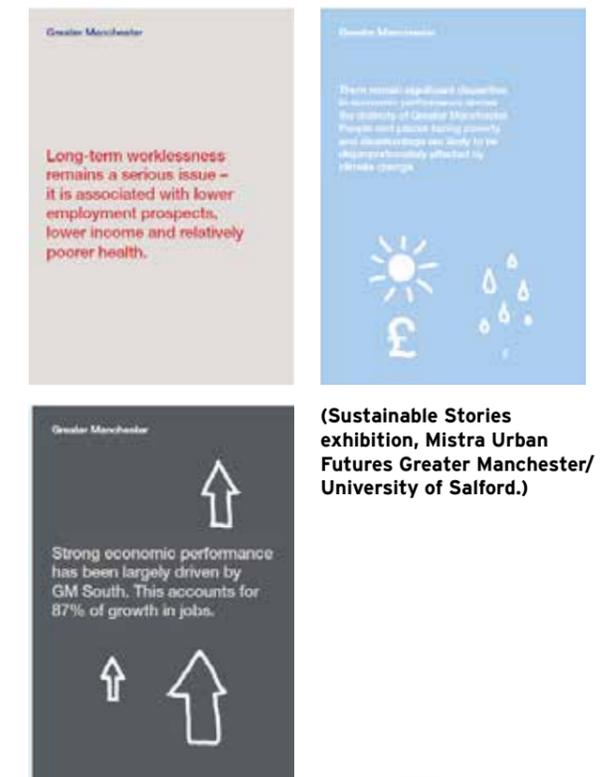
(Sustainable Stories exhibition, Mistra Urban Futures Greater Manchester/ University of Salford.)

Dealing with the legacies of the past and the possibilities of the future in a sustainable way is a key challenge for the self-named 'Original Modern' city-region.

This is particularly the case in the contemporary climate with a changing governance context since the election of a Conservative-Liberal Coalition government in 2010, a new localising agenda and

the restructuring of the role and resources of the public sector. The global financial crisis, budgetary restraint and silo-ed and narrow thinking in relation to sustainable urban development make the situation more challenging.

Against this challenging context, Greater Manchester continues to position itself as a first-mover in low carbon development – designated the first Low Carbon Economic Area for the Built Environment in 2009, launching a Greater Manchester Climate Change Strategy and developing a Low Carbon Hub. It is also a pilot for new experiments in public sector reform, such as Whole Place Budgeting. Post-riots, a Greater Manchester Poverty Commission was established to connect with citizens and better understand the conditions of their everyday lives.

(Alley-Gating in Seedley and Langworthy. Credit: SURF)

21st century Britain's mix of Coalition government, financial recession, banking crisis, riots, climate change, socio-economic inequality, new technological developments (the list goes on) affects all cities. Yet place matters and these pressures do not affect all cities and towns equally. Change, flux, uncertainty and experimentation are characteristics of this age, against a rapidly shifting reorientation of traditional roles between state, market, public and citizen. How these issues manifest in Greater Manchester is of interest not only to those within, but also outside the city-region.

Through the GM LIP's network-building and stakeholder engagement in 2011, a number of central challenges were identified around governance, funding, joined-up thinking, knowledge, skills and education. There are some good examples of partnership working and collaboration as a reaction to current challenges. Yet funding scarcity and the need for organisational survival also encourages competition as much as collaboration. Activity is piecemeal, fragmented and atomized, both at governance and community levels. A further challenge lies in the 'implementation gap': between knowing 'what' needs to be done and 'how' to achieve strategic goals in practice. Capacity is a critical issue – for policy-makers, local authorities, public and private institutions and communities alike.

The Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena Project

At a practical level the challenge in addressing these questions lay in the institutional complexity, flux and reduced funding context in Greater Manchester, particularly as personnel within the public sector were either moving posts or being made redundant. Given this, the priority for 2012 was to scope the boundaries and limits to existing knowledge and activities in the city-region to ensure that Mistra Urban Futures could add distinct value and not duplicate activities within the landscape of sustainable urban development in GM.

The 'Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena' project sought to develop a baseline assessment of developments, issues and initiatives in the city-region through a range of pilot activities. These were designed to map the existing knowledge base in sustainable urban development and explore gaps, identify novel practices, assess the extent of joined-up thinking, engage with different groups and locate the Greater Manchester experience in its contemporary UK context.

A series of pilot activities were designed to cut across policy, academic, business, community and cultural groups through different modes of knowledge production and the deployment of innovative modes and tools, including community researchers, focus groups and seminars, generating action-research projects, an exhibition, working with artists, co-reflection and visual methods such as film and photography. Each discrete activity was designed to:

• Produce substantive knowledge of value to research and practice.
• Trial new ways of working and approaches in partnership.

• Identify gaps, limits and possibilities.
• Contribute to the longer-term development of the platform.
• Identify potential collaborators.

As part of a reflexive process, the experiences of these different methods also form part of the broader lessons for Mistra Urban Futures, in terms of the critical implications for research-practice collaborations.

Highlights
Examples of activities under the Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena project include:

• An action-research project with the Environment Commission of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities to examining the governance, policy and knowledge base of city-regional urban policy.
• Examining the perspectives of policy-makers, practitioners and citizens in relation to sustainable urban development.
• Exploring the role of creative production and play in engaging school children in debates over sustainability.
• Working with community researchers to examine 'sustainable stories from the grassroots'.
• Designing a feasibility for and piloting a Greater Manchester digital portal for sustainability.
• Hosting an exhibition, 'Sustainable Stories', as part of the UK's national Economic and Social Research Council's Festival of Social Science.
• Understanding how Greater Manchester's responses to the challenges of sustainability compare with those in other UK cities.

The different activities are summarised in Table 1. Chapter 2 then provides an overview of each stream of work and the main findings/lessons learned.

Table 1. Summary of MUKA Activities

Title	Who?	What?	Why?	Outcome
1. Governance Knowledge and Policy	Action research partnership with Environment Commission/Low Carbon Hub	A baseline assessment of the formal governance frameworks, policy challenges and knowledge base for sustainability in GM	A rapidly changing governance structure with emergence of city-regional tier; abolition of sustainable development commissions at regional level; understanding the coherence of the knowledge base	Identifying strengths and weaknesses in current arrangements of governing at city-regional level; identifying immediate priorities and shaping new developments; foster routes into existing governance system to take GM LIP forward
2. Perspectives	Local authority politicians and chief executives; business and charitable organisations; voluntary sector; independents; artists	Series of essays commissioned by stakeholders and practitioners in the city about sustainable Greater Manchester	Understanding how 'sustainability' is interpreted; the knowledge that individuals draw on and the gaps they identify; identifying what different kinds of examples of sustainable urban development in GM are seen as good practice and what the main challenges are.	Making different perspectives visible is a first step to generating common values and approaches; identifying existing practices; creating a forum for a discussion about sustainability in GM.
3. Sustainable Communities	Partnership model with Seedley and Langworthy Trust and a group of community researchers in Salford	Case study of community development trust in Salford and local work with residents on perceptions of sustainability	Understand how community capacity is affected in contemporary context, the challenges and issues faced.	Raising profile of the sustainable communities agenda and creating links with community groups through intermediary organisations; highlighting the practical challenges organisations and communities face in living more sustainably.
4. Sustainable Stories	Activity with community researchers from Seedley and Langworthy Trust and Broughton Trust	Exploratory fieldwork in Salford and a questionnaire conducted at the Sustainable Stories exhibition	Compare understandings of sustainability from those citizens of Greater Manchester with those from more formal perspectives	Ensuring that the GM LIP is able to articulate perspectives two-ways – between policy and community worlds
5. Universities and Sustainable Cities	Partnership of academics between Salford and Manchester Universities	Exploration of the limits to mapping the research, teaching and enterprise/outreach activities in the four GM universities of relevance to sustainable GM	Nature and form of city-regional collaborative partnerships between universities has changed with the end of organisations such as Manchester Knowledge Capital and the Contact Partnership. Does 'sustainability' offer a new collaborative rationale?	Exploring scope for collaborative work around sustainability agenda.
6. Digital Governance and Sustainability	Co-designed project with Creative Concern	Feasibility work for the development of an online digital portal for sustainability and development of test site	Exploring potential of digital technology to share information and learning, profile activity in the city-region and contribute to a common cultural urban memory	Beta site of e-portal and development plan for online portal
7. Creative Production, Practice and Exchange	Co-designed project involving Buddleia, Temple Primary School, okf productions, Manchester Environmental Education Network and Creative Concern	A pilot activity between an artist and the eco-schools team at Temple Primary; producing art work subsequently displayed at an exhibition on Sustainable Stories at the CUBE, Manchester.	Inter-generational equity and the temporal dimension of sustainability is critical; exploring the potential of creative production and play in debates over climate change	Making voices of children visible alongside those of policy-makers and community members in the exhibition; learning through doing about creative responses to sustainability issues.
8. Networking Greater Manchester	Partnership with independent local and economic advisor	A pilot activity to network the GM LIP with other English cities, to compare experiences and generate understanding of similarities/differences across contexts	GM is not an island; learning from elsewhere and identifying common issues may also lead to shared approaches and recommendations for national government	Feasibility of continued work and a network of cities, alongside comparative urban research agenda.
9. Integrated Actions	Participants from across different sectors	Two integrated actions and mapping exercises on Education for Sustainability and Business and Sustainable Development	Working with existing organisations to identify activities and issues through a group setting	Identification of key activities and issues of relevance to ongoing programme of work
10. Impact Assessment	Development of initial impact assessment of GM LIP in pilot year	First phase impact assessment based on frequency, depth and reach of engagement through pilot activities	There is no clear framework for evaluating the impact of social science research, particularly in terms of intangible benefits of working in research-practice partnerships.	Developing a local evaluation framework for the GM LIP to capture the issues and lessons emerging from the programme as a whole.

CHAPTER 2 - Overview of Activities
Activity 1: Governance, Policy and Knowledge for Sustainability

In brief:
- A fluid and rapidly changing two-tier governance system requiring greater articulation and engagement with local groups.
- A need for greater joined-up thinking between and across policy areas for sustainable urban development, particularly around social inclusion, diversity and equality.
- A fragmented and patchy knowledge base for sustainability with little learning from grassroots initiatives and limited connections into research being done within universities.

Project Background

What urban capacities exist to develop sustainable urban futures, formally and informally? What do different policies for sustainable urban development look like in different countries? How do different stakeholders and communities influence policy formulation? What can we learn from sharing experiences between cities in different parts of the globe?

As part of a comparative project with academic and local authority partners in Cape Town and Gothenburg, the Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures (SURF), University of Salford, has been working with the Greater Manchester Low Carbon Hub to examine the governance, policy processes and knowledge base for sustainability in the City Region. The aim of the overall Mistra Urban Futures project is to produce a framework for understanding how the challenges of sustainable urban development are shaped in different contexts and what steps cities can take

to enhance the effectiveness of policy-making and implementation.

What Did We Do

The first phase of this project in 2012 aimed to develop a comparative review of the governance and policy of urban sustainability across the Mistra Urban Futures Local Interaction Platforms (LIPs). A baseline assessment of the structures and mechanisms for the Governance, Policy and Knowledge for Sustainability in Greater Manchester was conducted between June and November 2012 and was undertaken in partnership between the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) Environment Team and the Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures, University of Salford. The overall comparative project has been led by Professor Tim May (University of Salford) and Professor Simon Marvin (University of Durham).

How Did We Do It

The baseline assessment was carried out using two parallel approaches. An action research approach by AGMA's Environment Team, embedded within current governance structures, was used in an attempt to both capture an accurate baseline within a city region undergoing rapid change, whilst simultaneously supporting the Team to identify solutions to practical problems being experienced in the governance, policy and knowledge for sustainability arena in Greater Manchester (GM). A literature review and a small number of individual inquiries were combined with a stakeholder workshop and formal interviews to gather the baseline and test the accuracy of its assumptions and the conclusions drawn. In parallel, SURF carried out an interview programme, external review and mapping of different examples cited as 'good

practice' of sustainable urban development initiatives across the range of pilot work.

Summary of Findings

- Governing Sustainable Urban Development: An Emerging Two-Tiered System

The governance of Greater Manchester is rapidly changing and fluid. At the time of the baseline assessment, the governance framework was being reviewed to better reflect policy priorities, the change in emphasis from strategy development towards enhanced delivery and to enable wider engagement of key stakeholders. The resulting framework was still found not to reflect all of the policy topics nor stakeholders that could be considered under the broad heading of 'sustainable urban development'. Whilst there is a strong tier of non-state actors involved in governance and a myriad of community initiatives and organisations, the baseline assessment confirmed that there is sub-optimal engagement within and less engagement outside the formal governing structures.

The move from regional to local governance for sustainable urban development has had some deleterious impact on the promotion of sustainable urban development. It is not the removal of the regional tier of governance per se that has caused an issue. Rather, the speed of transition at a time of austerity has meant that local governance groups are having to rebuild the evidence base to reflect the local geography and put in place policies and engagement mechanisms which were previously present at the regional level. There is some evidence to suggest that this is now happening (e.g. equality and diversity groups are reforming on-line associations), but there has been an intervening gap. The reduced

availability of finance for research and programme delivery will, however, continue to be an issue.

As a body, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) comprises the Leaders of the ten constituent councils in Greater Manchester (or their substitutes). Whilst GMCA has a constitution, the nature and shape of the two-tiered system as a whole is not clearly or widely understood in terms of overlapping jurisdictions, parallel competences and the relationship between local authorities, AGMA and the GMCA. Local authorities retain significant budgets and responsibilities in areas of policy relevant for sustainable urban development. Furthermore, since May 2012 some local authorities, such as Salford, also have directly elected mayors.
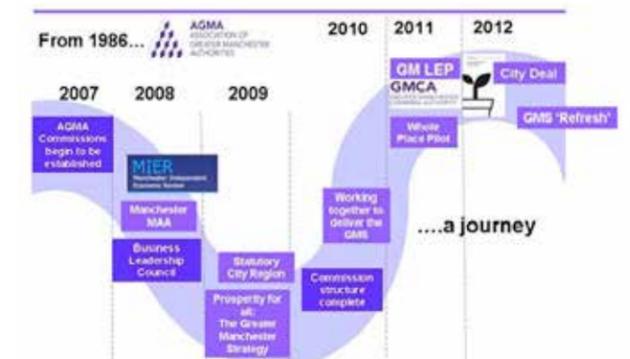
(Development of collaborative working in GM. GM LIP Working Paper 1: 2012)

As a result there is a need to understand how the two-tier system of governance is working in Greater Manchester. Currently, Greater Manchester is the primary level for economic growth, mapping on to new structures such as the Local Enterprise Partnership; environmental policies operate across GM and local authorities; whilst social and community issues tend more

to be dealt with at local authority or even neighbourhood level. Economy is probably the strongest example of city-regional working, whilst the roles of key actors and their inter-relationships and responsibilities require further clarification. Environment appears to be a strong case of joint authority, with parallel Climate Change Strategies existing at both local authority and Greater Manchester levels. However, the development of the Low Carbon Hub creates pressures to upscale from local authority plans to a more city-regional approach. Social and cultural strategies are primarily developed and implemented at local authority level, with the notable exception of the Whole Place Community Budgets initiatives, which are intended to be developed by bringing public, private and voluntary and community sectors together.

What is at stake is how well these different governing functions are articulated and coordinated. The academic and policy partners involved in the study so far agreed that current formal arrangements do not address the democratic deficit between Greater Manchester and its 2.6 residents. Greater communication and engagement is needed. What is the appropriate scale for action? What should local authorities and Greater Manchester bodies be doing and how can more effective governing practices be developed between policy areas and across local and city-regional scales?

• Policies for Sustainable Urban Development

The focus of the 2009 Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS), the over-arching economic strategy for GM, was primarily on issues concerned with economic growth, including inter-alia the development of a low carbon economy, improving the energy and transport infrastructure and creating better life chances for residents in deprived areas. This focus on

economic wellbeing underpins the formal approach to city-regional development. However, the baseline assessment noted it could lead to unintended consequences if impacts of other aspects of sustainable urban development are not simultaneously considered.
Wider socio-economic issues, notably equality and diversity are often given less consideration. A number of daughter strategies were identified that promote aspects of sustainable urban development. However, the inter-relationship between these strategies, required to glean a systemic view of how to transition to a sustainable city of the future, was found not to be strong and there does not appear to have been a systematic attempt to assess these documents for any conflicts or synergies.

The wider concept of Sustainable Urban Development, if the Brundtland definition is used, is not comprehensively practiced in Greater Manchester, as priority is given to a smaller number of defined aspects. Although there is formal oversight, there is no one formal governance forum that considers the detail or the breadth of the sustainable urban development agenda.
The enviro-economic interface is dominated by the priority to reduce carbon emissions (primarily to meet UK government targets) but also to capture the economic benefits of transition to a low carbon economy. Interviewees suggested that this is driven through the perceived need to align the environmental agenda closely with the political primacy given to economic growth. There is less emphasis placed on environmental protection and hence environmental quality, with the possible exception of air quality. The socio-economic interface is less well defined but appears to focus on provision of better life chances to those in deprived areas, particularly relating to improved health and early learning.

The focus of GM policy is driven by economic development and growth, with comparatively less emphasis on environmental or social considerations or, at least, less integration between them. In particular, there is less policy emphasis placed on social inclusion, equality and diversity of opportunity, with the possible exception of addressing fuel poverty. In the dialogue phase of the assessment, several stakeholders considered that the interaction between social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainable urban development was addressed in policy formation through internal dialogue between officers within the AGMA family of organizations. However, not having a more formal sustainability appraisal of key strategies and policies, prior to approval, appears to be a significant omission in the policy formation process.

• Knowledge for Sustainable Urban Development

The GMS (2009) was based on a significant body of evidence which was largely economic in focus. A wider set of existing socio-environmental evidence has not been fully brought together to assess how it collectively relates to and informs current pathways. There is a question over whether this evidence base, on interrogation, would provoke challenges to existing policy assumptions. Attempts have been made to form a suite of key priority indicators to monitor progress of the GMS strategic priorities. All of the current headline indicators are economic in nature, including one which assesses the carbon efficiency of GM's economy.

A review of the Greater Manchester economy carried out in 2009 stated that Greater Manchester already functions as a cohesive economic unit. The Manchester Independent Economic Review, or MIER, was used to formulate the 2009 Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS). As this was primarily an economic analysis, there is little

evidence that environmental considerations were taken in to account, other than the potential for growth in the Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services sector.

To investigate the state of the knowledge base, a review of environmental evidence was carried out. The most significant findings of the mapping work were that, prior to this exercise, there was no single repository for research which could inform sustainable urban development policy making in GM. Research at the local authority level is poorly represented which implies that either it does not exist or there is a lack of sharing of knowledge between the Districts and the mapping work is not complete. There are large omissions of existing regional and local data which could have a bearing on GM as a whole.

Through looking at the existing evidence for environmental sustainability, the baseline assessment found that:

• Significant focus has been placed on climate change adaptation research at the GM level (especially in recent years).
• With the exception of climate change adaptation, there is a paucity of recognized and collected data at the GM level for other sustainable urban development topics.
• There is a lack of recognition and utilization of existing regional data.
• With the exception of Climate Change adaptation, research undertaken by HEI/FEI are poorly represented.
• There are no mechanisms for learning from community or grassroots initiatives or assessing their implications for policy.

Given the fragmented state of the knowledge base, the task of identifying commonly agreed exemplars of sustainable urban development in the city-region was not straightforward.

Commonly, whilst stakeholders could agree on values and principles, there were strong differences in opinion over how and whether different specific projects or initiatives are 'good examples' of sustainable urban development or not and how adequate the evidence base was to assess these claims. Common values for what makes a 'good' sustainable urban development project were those that illustrated:

1. A strategic capacity, long-term view and leadership: example given, Hulme Regeneration.
2. An integrated approach to SUD: example given, NOMA development.
3. Regeneration in the "Original Modern" city-region: example given, waterways and Salford Quays.
4. Grassroots action around specific themes: example given, Bite Veg Bag and Sustainable Food.
5. Sustainable communities: example given, Little Hulton in Salford.

The process of examining motivations and values as exemplars revealed a common set of issues that matter to stakeholders in GM in terms of their perceptions of success. Importantly, this raised the question of how values relate to actions and how we can strengthen the evidence base for what works and doesn't.

Next Steps
Given these challenges, what should be done? The encouraging news is that the action-research process between the Low Carbon Hub and the SURF centre is beginning to have an impact. Key actors have engaged with the work and are seeking to address the noted areas of weakness. The Low Carbon Hub has reported engaging with more actors through sub-group meetings, bulletins and a commitment to develop articles for Platform (see http://ontheplatform.org.uk/article/

briefing-outline-greater-manchesters-low-carbon-hub and http://ontheplatform.org.uk/article/keeping-date-low-carbon-hub). In addition, an internal process – the Integrated Greater Manchester Assessment – has attempted to look at a wider evidence base for the Greater Manchester Strategy refresh, which itself is part of a broader consultation process, including a specific session to engage Low Carbon Hub stakeholders. Through engaging with this project, the Low Carbon Hub is acting as a focal point for broader debates on urban sustainability and seeking to generate cross-cutting debates within the Greater Manchester family as a whole.

There is still more to do. As part of the ongoing work, the partners are working on four key issues:

1. Updating the baseline assessment to understand how governance structures have changed and developed from 2012-2013.
2. Developing options internally with the Greater Manchester family for responding to the challenges of governance, knowledge and policy for sustainable urban development which were highlighted in the baseline assessment.
3. Engaging with the GM districts to understand existing and potential ways of bridging the gap between citizens and Greater Manchester and developing more joined up policy frameworks between local authorities and GM.
4. Working with the Social Action Research Foundation to understand alternative options for through engagement with non-state actors in Salford, Manchester and across Greater Manchester.

Across the other Mistra Urban Futures Local Interaction Platforms, work is also continuing. In Cape Town, for instance, the project is part of their broader 'embedded researcher' model, in which PhD students work from within the City of

Cape Town to address particular issues such as climate change, energy and densification. Future collaborations have been suggested between research and academic partners around the implementation gap between policy and action in different contexts and issues relating to a more value-based urban policy.

In their own words, interviews 2011-2012

There are structures and then there are people who are making decisions and they're not always the same in this city

There are some very good projects that are up and running from built environment projects through to carbon coops through to commuter cycling through to electric vehicle infrastructure programmes – but strategically there is no sustainable urban development plan

The work that's just been done on the climate change strategy for GM – as soon as the audit was done for all the different boroughs and where their targets lay and what state of readiness they are in, it was all completely different - so in crafting that strategy you had to find a common starting point for all those different boroughs

Activity 2: Perspectives

In brief:
- There are variable understandings of sustainability with different emphases on economic, ecological and social elements.
- A critical issue is whether economic growth is a necessary precursor of sustainability or an impediment.
- The relationship between formal policy accounts of sustainability and more informal neighbourhood and community sustainability activities is a key concern.
- Approaches vary in claiming whether radical change or an evolution of the status quo is necessary for achieving sustainability.

Project Background

How can sustainability be understood in Greater Manchester? The Perspectives series starts from the view that there is no single definitive answer to this question; but that various perspectives, experiences and knowledge of those involved in sustainability policy and practice in Greater Manchester can shed light on and help to clarify responses to this question.

Early in 2012, the Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform commissioned a series of written essays on how sustainability can be understood in Greater Manchester.

What Did We Do

Nine Perspectives were written by people whose experiences of sustainability in Greater Manchester spread across public, private and voluntary sectors.

The nine Perspectives were written by:

- Sir Richard Leese, Leader of the Council, Manchester City Council
- Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive, Stockport Council
- Caroline Downey, MERCi
- Debbie Ellen and Lucy Danger, Emerge
- Walter Menzies, Independent Advisor on Sustainable Development and Partnership and Partnership Development and Management
- Roger Milburn, ARUP
- Alison Surtees, Creative Industries in Salford (CRIS)
- Alex Whinnom, Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO)
- Paul Haywood, Professor of Creative Community Engagement, University of Salford and Artist.

How Did We Do It

The Perspectives were initially written in July/August 2012. This is important to note as the sustainability field in Greater Manchester, as elsewhere, is changing rapidly.

The brief for the authors was to address the following questions:

1. What do you understand sustainability to mean in Greater Manchester?

2. Using this definition/conceptualisation, what are the key challenges in Greater Manchester? Why?

3. What 3 examples would you give of this approach to sustainable urban development? Please provide details.

4. Who is included in addressing the challenges of sustainability in Greater Manchester? Why?

5. What are the gaps in knowledge about sustainability in Greater Manchester and what kinds of knowledge do you think are needed to address core challenges?

6. What does 'success' look like in addressing these challenges? What outcomes are needed and how are they monitored?

7. What are the implications of the above for knowledge, policy and action in Greater Manchester?

This produced nine Perspectives, rooted in different positions, institutions and personal experiences. They highlight both the difficulties and potential of achieving shared understanding of what sustainability is in Greater Manchester and how it is to be achieved.

Summary of Findings

Individually each Perspective makes a unique intervention to debates about sustainability in Greater Manchester. They each make numerous contributions to what the shape of a sustainable Greater Manchester could and should look like and why this should be the case. Within each Perspective, though, there are specific issues raised that are worthy of summary.

Richard Leese develops a clear challenge to the view that cities can be seen as being in a steady state. He highlights the dynamism of cities, their buildings, structures and the people that live or work or play in them. His point being that a 'healthy, sustainable future for Manchester depends on maintaining a growth trajectory'.

Eamonn Boylan promotes a view of sustainability based on transforming the quality of provision of public agencies as a means of creating opportunities. In this view: 'Any sustainable city must be a place that can provide its people with accessible means to achieve their aspirations, both now and in the future. A sustainable city will enable its people to make logical choices that support sustainable outcomes and increase personal independence'.

Caroline Downey makes the case that a sustainable Greater Manchester requires radical economic, political, social, cultural and environmental transformation. In her view: 'It will require a rethinking and restructuring on a level unknown since the World Wars to implement these ideas and strategies globally, but as a first step it would be good to see Manchester, or any or all of the other Greater Manchester boroughs,

being brave enough to actively engage in a sustainability agenda that challenges economic growth'.

Debbie Ellen and Lucy Danger focus on food to address sustainability in Greater Manchester. In particular they illustrate the significant part played by food in Greater Manchester's carbon footprint but the difficulty in producing a coordinated Greater Manchester level response. As they discuss: 'Food is important for the environmental, economic, health and well being of residents but there is a danger that it can get lost because there is no single organisation that co-ordinates food policy. Nevertheless, the Total Carbon Footprint (TCF) of Greater Manchester clearly shows that food plays a significant part in residents' carbon emissions. As 19% of our TCF is associated with food it is vital that there is a more coordinated, systematic approach to food policy and sustainable practice in Greater Manchester'.

Walter Menzies identifies the existence of well regarded sustainability initiatives and projects in Greater Manchester. However, he also sees a lack of well developed coordination between them. Talking about these projects and initiatives, he argues that 'none of this joins up, adds up to a powerful, integrated drive towards a sustainable city region. There is no focal point that connects public policy, business, the academic communities and civil society in the pursuit of sustainable development. Diverse and disconnected policies, programmes, initiatives and projects do not add up to a concerted movement. We need an independent advocacy partnership'.

(Green Cities and Community Growing. Credit: Emerge Recycling/Fare Share North West)

Roger Milburn discusses the lack of clarity in defining what is meant by sustainability and its blurring with other debates around low carbon living and climate change. Supporting the Triple Bottom Line approach to sustainability, he argues that the diversity and richness of Greater Manchester communities and neighbourhoods should be harnessed: 'This should include improving the responsibility and behaviour of GM citizens together with greater co-operation across neighbourhoods in the planning and delivery of sustainable urban solutions'.

Alison Surtees argues that the idea of projects for sustainability is in some senses a 'misnomer' as projects are finite and time bounded and, therefore difficult to sustain. She illustrates how the work of a third sector creative organisation can support 'local communities to access and engage with creative industries through direct collaboration, as a means of effecting change, to improve skills, deliver experience and route-ways to employment, that in turn can support sustainability of communities across Greater Manchester'.

Alex Whinnom approaches the debate from the perspective of direct voluntary action. He points out that Greater Manchester lacks a shared vision for sustainability built on shared values. He identifies the potential for the values involved in voluntary action to contribute to understandings of sustainability in Greater Manchester. He says this as a way of building consensus on sustainability where 'there is something to be learned from the people-centred approach taken by the voluntary sector, and from its ability to develop new approaches to old problems by addressing them "bottom up". I would submit that a realisable vision of sustainability will require all of us to re-think long entrenched roles, relationships and cultures. We need an urgent and inclusive debate'.

Paul Haywood highlights the emergence of a 'professionalised creative sector that disguises its privileges by claiming democratic value' where the 'effect, unintentionally, is to obscure the vernacular and "living" cultures of super-local social communities in the region in favour of what is claimed to be high value and high quality arts'. He argues that 'it has become increasingly difficult for citizens to influence change through their own creative actions and so they have to become increasingly deviant and imaginative as a way of preserving and promoting their own cultural enterprise (activism)'.

Collectively, the nine Perspectives illustrate diverse understandings of what sustainability might mean and how it can be achieved in Greater Manchester. They also illuminate some recurring issues and key struggles in the debate around sustainability and Greater Manchester.

The Perspectives demonstrate variable use of a range of conceptions of sustainability. Within these conceptions there are different emphases on economic, ecological and social elements of sustainability.

This informs a lack of a consensus view about how sustainability is governed in Greater Manchester. In particular, there is a need for greater clarity about what the relationship is and should be between formal, policy accounts of sustainability and more informal neighbourhood and community sustainability activities. This is part of a debate about whether sustainability in Greater Manchester is best understood and achieved through formal national and city-regional policy interventions or through more locally embedded projects.

Across the Perspectives conceptions of sustainability and the issue of how to govern sustainability in Greater Manchester are related to a range of pressures. These include: the ways in which the sustainability agenda may be used to address deep seated issues around poverty, inequality and deprivation and the potential of the sustainability agenda to build empowerment within communities in Greater Manchester.

The Perspectives also illustrate that there are many projects that are labelled as sustainability initiatives in Greater Manchester. This range of projects demonstrates that there are a various visions of what sustainability could look like in the city-region. It also highlights that there is an absence of a shared vision for a sustainable Greater Manchester and a need for urgent debate.

In particular, this includes the issue of whether economic growth is a necessary precursor of sustainability or an impediment to it. There is also a need for further dialogue as to what the alternatives to growth may be in sustainable urban futures.

The ways in which the debate develops will have consequences for the future shape of the physical fabric of the city-region. It will also condition the role that creative and cultural responses can play in addressing the challenges of sustainability in Greater Manchester.

These issues will define the type of sustainable Greater Manchester that emerges, whether it is radically different or an evolution of the status quo, and what the balance should be between the autonomy of the city-region and its relationship with other places.

These Perspectives will not, of themselves, resolve the issue of what sustainability in Greater Manchester is and how it can be achieved. Yet they contribute to that debate through setting out a range of public, private and voluntary sector Perspectives on the 'what' and 'how' of a sustainable Greater Manchester.

The Perspectives can be read at http://www.ontheplatform.org.uk

Key words, 2012

Density, vision, climate change, growth, poverty (Richard Leese)

People, choice, independence, place, collaboration (Eamonn Boylan)

One planet, values, learning, alternatives, resilience (Caroline Downey)

Food, waste, carbon footprint, access, strategy (Debbie Ellen and Lucy Danger)

Sustainable development, boosterism, partnerships, sustainability, Greater Manchester (Walter Menzies)

Responsibility, evidence, balanced, holistic, now (Roger Milburn)

Purpose, collaboration, communities, balance, pragmatism (Alison Surtees)

Voluntary action, voluntary sector, vision, inclusion, strategy (Alex Whinnom)

Social arts, social business, cultural activism, citizen leaderships, engagement (Paul Haywood).

Activity 3: Sustainable Communities

In brief:

- Community trusts and intermediary organisations are facing increasing demand for their services, whilst funding and capacity to deliver is being reduced.
- Capacity-building processes in communities, such as through community research, are being squeezed as organisations become more focussed on service delivery and commissioning.
- Communities are asset-rich and should be empowered to lead activities in their neighbourhoods if longer-term transformative sustainable change is to be maintained.
- This is not a magic process. Communities also need relevant capacity, support and infrastructure. Capacity-supporting is therefore a critical issue.

Project Background

Community organizations, such as development trusts and local hubs and projects, have been doing sustainability for a long time, delivering services and building capacity through local knowledge and expertise. These 'intermediaries' also operate as brokers between communities and mainstream urban policy and governance and perform connective functions that are valued by a wide range of citizens in wards and districts across the city. Often, community organizations have worked with residents in novel and engaging ways to build trust, capacity and support existing assets within communities to develop more sustainable urban futures. This activity sought to engage with these issues through

examining the role of intermediary organizations in building sustainable communities and the role of communities as co-producers of research.

What Did We Do

The activity consisted of a case study of Seedley and Langworthy Trust (SALT). SALT is a community development trust, established as part of a major national regeneration programme in 1999 in the Langworthy area of Salford. It sits within the Central Salford regeneration development framework area that spans and includes other similar neighbourhood wards such as Ordsall, Weaste, and Broughton and Charlestown & Lower Kersal. Importantly the Trust, along with other local community organisations, has had a commitment to using community research as an effective tool for community engagement ever since its inception.

How Did We Do It

In Phase 1, the case study was undertaken by Martin Halton, former Research Manager of SALT with the support of the SALT Board in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures, University of Salford and Mistra Urban Futures. The case study involved a review of existing materials and an internal reflection process supported by 18 interviews. The interviews were with other intermediary organisations in the area – such as Ordsall Community Arts and the Broughton Trust – as well as members of the SALT board. A workshop on 'Involving Communities in Research: Sharing Practices and Learning Lessons' was also held in May 2012 at the St Sebastian's Community Centre.

In Phase 2, we worked with community researchers to develop a greater understanding of the mechanisms for engaging with communities in research and highlight 'through doing' the issues and tensions that can emerge. In addition, SURF undertook a wide-ranging literature and documentary review of sustainable urban development to support the work and a series of interviews with academics engaged in community research.

Summary of Findings

- Communities Worth Their SALT?

The Seedley and Langworthy Trust is a community development trust that was set-up in 1997 to represent and support the residents of Seedley & Langworthy through the initial and ongoing regeneration of the area. The area comprises a total population of approximately 72,000 people – accounting for nearly a third of Salford's total population. Seedley and Langworthy is typical of many older, northern inner urban areas of industrialised towns/cities. It has its history firmly rooted in the 19th century manufacturing industry and associated terraced housing. Despite numerous regeneration and investment programmes over the last 20 years within the city of Salford - major challenges still exist in a number of wards in terms of a poor and ageing infrastructure, rising unemployment, deprived communities and socio-economic inequalities.

(Seedley and Langworthy Trust on Langworthy Road. Source: SURF)

SALT was originally located in shop premises on Langworthy Rd. to provide a resource centre for the local community. Supported by various national regeneration programmes and the local authority agreeing to let SALT have premises at a peppercorn rent, the organisation's early work focused on the mobilisation of community/social action in response to urban decline. Yet whilst this core ethos has remained, the role of the Trust is significantly altering under current conditions, with a particular shift to a more economic and welfare-driven agenda of increasing employment opportunities.

The gradual phasing out of major regeneration programmes has diluted the extent to which SALT has been able to continue to effectively include and shape decision-making in the local area. At the same time, the end of recent core funding streams has meant SALT has been unable to maintain and support previous resource and staffing levels in relation to some of its core services, such as resident participation, outreach and engagement, employment and training and community/social research.

At an organisational level, reductions in funding and public sector reform mean that a new commissioning-based model of public service delivery is urgently needed.

The case study of Seedley and Langworthy Trust highlights a set of broader issues facing the community and voluntary sector in Greater Manchester: the capacity of these hubs is being hollowed out at a time when demand for their services is at a high level. This is particularly the case as many community initiatives have been sustained over time by previous national programmes which have now come to an end. The dependencies between trusts and intermediaries and local authorities, in a context of public sector reform and financial austerity, are therefore also being restructured, leaving many hubs struggling to survive. One such hub in East Manchester cited their losses as a 40% reduction in funding since 2012 and a loss of 4 staff. A survey run by Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations has revealed that 56% of members had cut services, 73% had experienced an increase in demand and only 42% could meet it.

• Governing Sustainable Communities

The changing national and local landscape sets the scene for the issues facing sustainable communities. At a national level community has been mobilised as a concept without any concern for its sustainability or what this means in practice. Despite the stated importance attached to community across policy documents, there is no coherent national plan for supporting sustainable communities.

What prevails is a deficit-view of communities as a barrier to growth, an acknowledgement that community matters, but few mechanisms or inclusive processes to engage with or learn from community initiatives. At Greater Manchester level the absence of a coherent framework for sustainable urban development or sustainable communities means that this issue is reinforced. Intermediaries are seen to provide bridges between sets of formal and informal practices, but their roles and functions are being squeezed in the current era. The emphasis is on public-private stakeholders and large-scale investment projects, rather than clear support to generate, mobilise and learn from community initiatives in sustainable urban development.

This contrasts strongly with an asset-rich model of community development that is promoted within communities, by community activists and many academics (See Table 2). As noted above community engagement with the formal structures of Greater Manchester is minimal and assumed to come through intermediary or representative bodies. Yet a consistent theme amongst interviewees was that there are gaps in the current community engagement, involvement and decision-making structures across the local area – in particular in relation to decision-making.

Table 2. Approaches to Community Development

Dimension	Mainstream View	Alternative View
View of Community	Deficit view	Asset rich
Role	Target/beneficiary	Participant/agent
Approach Sustainable Communities	Economy–led; jobs = prosperity	Economy/ecology/society
Means for engagement	Existing processes sufficient through intermediaries	New forms of governance, participation and collaboration

Source: Perry, B. (2013) Governing Sustainable Urban Communities. Presentation to Uses and Abuses of Community workshop, University of Leeds.

Salford has a rich history and track-record of embracing 'participatory community research' projects in a number of regeneration areas across the city. For example, neighbourhoods across the 'Central Salford' regeneration framework area such as Charlestown and Lower Kersal, Broughton and Seedley & Langworthy have all experienced a range of participatory community research projects over the last 10-15 years. Many of these have been delivered, facilitated and managed by local, intermediary organisations, such as SALT and the Broughton Trust, with national organisations, such as Oxfam, also playing a role in promoting community research models. The Salford Social Action Research Project (SARP, 1999-2001) linked participatory approaches to an asset-rich view of sustainable communities, to build on existing expertise as well as build capacity in deprived urban neighbourhoods. There are also multiple examples of academics across the universities in Greater Manchester who are seeking to work with communities in innovative and engaged ways. Yet this tends to be the exception rather than the norm, with individuals motivated by their own values and beliefs and propensity to engage, rather than strong institutional support for their activities.

Community-engaged research is a framework or approach for conducting research, not a methodology in and of itself. At its core is the meaningful involvement of the community in the research, identifying local issues, setting research objectives, designing and resourcing the research, doing the research and disseminating the results. The approach to participatory community research within the Trusts shares similarities and differences with methods deployed by academics working with or as community researchers.

A central difference is in the nature and type of 'research' and the different stages in which communities might be involved. Within SALT, community researchers were engaged in delivering consultations or evaluations within their neighbourhoods, but tended to be less involved in the development of the research ideas or approach or the subsequent analysis of the materials. Nonetheless, those community researchers who were interviewed in this pilot activity were very positive of their experiences in working with SALT and the impact this had had on their personal trajectories.

Our work with community researchers reinforced these messages. A process was designed to involve the community researchers in all stages of the research and effort taken to reinforce to them that their expertise and knowledge was equally valuable as that of academic researchers. All the researchers already had training in community research through SALT and the Broughton Trust. The community researchers were unanimously positive on their involvement; however, they noted two critical issues. First, the time-span for engagement was short and resulted in unintended disconnections between the different researchers and the project as a whole. Despite the commitment of the project team and the community researchers to the notion of community participation, the complexity of co-production and the imposition of strict time-lines created distance from the process and the way materials were interpreted.

Second, the community researchers felt that they would have appreciated greater expertise being provided and guidance on the subject of sustainability. Two focus groups were held in the preparatory phase of the work. However, it was clear that community researchers did not always feel sufficiently confident in discussing sustainability, particularly when gathering data for the exhibition (see Activity 4). A central message from the work is that co-producing knowledge is not the same as saying we are all the same. We can acknowledge that different kinds of expertise within communities are valuable – as well as recognise the distinctiveness of academic knowledge and different approaches to knowledge exchange.

In their own words, interviews 2011-2012

Can I go and engage with a community group? It's not likely. There are too many of them and their relevance to what I actually do is limited…although what I do impacts on them I accept and what they do I can learn from…but it's very difficult to get into that sort of scale. There are orders of magnitude. There has to be an intermediary (Senior GM Policy Official)

We are like an honest broker with communities…we are valuable because of our relationship with the mainstream' (Environmental Trust)

It's not necessarily about trees and polar bears, it's about producing a decent way of living – a better way of living….we've got pretty ambitious targets for reducing carbon in the city and there's an emphasis on trams and solar panels…but that really kind of reflects this bureaucratic techno-controlling approach that local authorities sometimes have (Environmental Activist).

We would have liked some more background reading, lecture, basics about sustainability…people at the exhibition thought we were trained [in the subject] (Community Researcher)

Activity 4: Sustainable Stories

In brief:
• Community researchers gathered perspectives on sustainability through fieldwork and a questionnaire.
• A holistic integrated vision of sustainability was articulated, including balancing global and local and environmental, political, economic and social issues.
• A critical issue was around the involvement of local communities in identifying issues, making decisions and taking action.
• Community research was felt to be a positive way to avoid the fatigue that is experienced within communities of 'being researched'.

Project Background

Some writers have criticised the sustainability discourse for reinforcing the business as usual relationships between policy-makers, business elites and universities and not connecting with the experiences of everyday people. Many policy decisions appear to be made by governments with little genuine engagement with local communities about how they can help to implement those policies and with little regard for their interests, creating social and economic divisions and inequalities that are, or may become, unsustainable. To complement the Perspectives writing exercise (Activity 2), the Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena project sought to include the perspectives and voices of Greater Manchester's citizens on the sustainability challenges of the city-region.

What Did We Do

This project gave people an opportunity to express their views about sustainability, about life where they live, and about what needs to be done to develop sustainable communities. The project was carried out as part of the broader research on Sustainable Communities (Activity 3). With input from SURF, Martin Halton worked with six community researcher to capture and communicate local community perspectives on sustainability.

How Did We Do It

The community researchers from SALT and the Broughton Trust came together to undertake local exploratory work on sustainable stories in Salford and design, undertake and analyse a questionnaire for use at the Sustainable Stories exhibition (see Activity 4). The research programme had four main phases: individual fieldwork; feedback and questionnaire development; joint research; and report-writing.

The fieldwork was conducted in Broughton, Kersal, Langworthy, Ordsall, Winton, Weaste and the University of Salford, using a combination of background desk research, interviews, personal reflections and data analysis, and a variety of tools (cameras, video, audio, note-taking, internet). The researchers then came back together to discuss their individual findings, how they could be presented at the exhibition, and to co-produce a research questionnaire for the Sustainable Stories exhibition at the CUBE in central Manchester. Forty-one questionnaires were completed, either by interview with individual visitors or in writing by individual visitors.

The questionnaire comprised 5 questions: What does sustainability mean to you? How does it relate to your local area/environment? What could be done to enhance/improve life in your area? What role could you and your community play in achieving this? What challenges may you and your community face in achieving this? The Community Researchers then summarized the questionnaires into a report and fed back the main conclusions and issues arising.

Summary of Findings
• Exploring Local Neighbourhoods

The community researchers went into their neighbourhoods to conduct some initial fieldwork, drawing on their own involvement with local communities:

> Ann Walters is a community activist who has worked part-time as a Community Researcher since 2010. Ann developed a profile of Winton, highlighting significant institutions in the lives of the community, such as the schools, churches and library, and the importance of green space.

> Emily Mmbololo is Chair of Women of the World in Broughton and has a Level 3 in Community Research Skills. Her fieldwork comprised of an open discussion with the Women of the World group around the meaning and relevance of sustainability. Education was a key theme, particularly for multi-cultural communities, as well as safety, equity and diversity.

> Sarah Whitehead drew on her involvement with Weaste Area Forum to explore the Weaste area through the lenses of Fair, Green and Dense cities. Key themes were the importance of community hubs and informal spaces to meet; community growing and gated alleyways; and the relationship between fairness and community participation in local decision-making.

> Sian Lucas, a student at the University of Salford, explored the campus from the perspectives of fair, green and dense. This raised a number of issues relating to the physical boundaries of the campus, enclosed spaces and eligibility of different people to be on campus.

> Steve Cunio, a resident of Seedley and Langworthy, undertook a multi-media approach and brought together personal reflections and historical examples with contemporary case studies. Steve highlighted the role of historical figures such as Joseph Brotherton and Shelagh Delaney in engaging with communities and examples of practice from today, such as Social adVentures. He highlighted the need to think about more cooperative forms of working and living in communities.

> Wilson Nkurunziza is Chair of Salford Refugees and Asylum Seekers and also has a Level 3 in Community Research Skills. Wilson collected stories from Pendleton Residents and highlighted critical issues in the area, including unemployment, cycles of poverty, low social infrastructure, the importance of well-being, the inadequacy of existing high-density housing and the centrality of consultation and cooperation in sustainable communities.

Pendleton in Salford. Source: Wilson Nkurunziza

• Integrated Understandings of Sustainability

As can be seen from above, at grassroots level, sustainability is seen as an integrated and holistic concept. The work carried out revealed a set of common themes and aspirations that evoke the concept of a sustainable community – equality and justice, decision-making, longevity, care for the environment, community involvement, growth, individual development, cohesion, safety, cleanliness and transport. An alternative conception of sustainable communities emerged that transcends the green growth agenda.

Despite the Community Researchers initial lack of confidence about 'sustainability', the fieldwork was rich and showed deep engagement with the critical issues around urban futures. Perspectives on sustainability from those living and working in the city both reinforce and challenge policy-makers, politicians and academics to take more account of grassroots actions and views. Most people associate sustainability with making better use of the planet's resources over the long-term, so that we can sustain our future. Many of the community researchers highlighted the difficulties for local people in thinking about sustainability, when their daily decisions are about where the money or food might come from.

• Balancing the Global and Local

Across the fieldwork and the questionnaire, sustainability at a local level meant balancing the concern with global environmental and economic considerations with action to address the quality of life in local communities. In practical terms, this meant making more efficient use of energy and minimising waste to landfill; growing your own food, being self-sufficient (including using local hydro-power and community energy networks) and living minimally. Other issues included making the local area clean and safe; more facilities (local schools, local shops, community hubs, sports facilities); more and better social and private housing; cheaper housing (e.g. lower rents); better transport links; better use of land, including less divisive use of land, e.g. gentrification. It also meant respecting social and cultural diversity, respecting other people, distributing resources and opportunities fairly and equitably, including more and better employment and training opportunities and improved health

care. In general, the overriding concern here was with people and their interaction; with promoting a sense of belonging to a healthy, cohesive community. In this regard, sustainability involved balancing social, environmental and economic values.

Summary of questionnaire responses

• Involving Communities in Governing Sustainably

A common concern through the questionnaires and fieldwork related to community participation. The successful pursuit of sustainability requires the involvement of local communities in identifying issues, making decisions and taking action, preferably with the support of the public sector, private sector and third sector. When asked what could be done to improve life in their area, most people called for greater involvement of local communities in identifying issues, developing a shared vision, making decisions and taking action, either with or without the support of local and national government.

They suggest that the public sector, private sector and third sector can help by supporting education in sustainability (e.g. carbon literacy), building capacity for community action, and engaging with the community as partners. Examples of community participation range from being involved in local government planning and regeneration processes, to simply participating in community activities as a means to improve community spirit, e.g. gardening projects.

Of course, effective local community participation is not easy; there are numerous constraints and obstacles, mainly political, economic and social, including existing governance structures, economic policies and various conflicts of value and interest. Some people believed that there is a discrepancy between the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities' (AGMA) desire to be a global city and that of local communities to improve quality of place (see Activity 1). The dominant economic growth model was seen to compound the problem, not least because of the impact that the government's austere fiscal policy is having on already deprived local communities. Some people pointed out that local government processes are too bureaucratic and top-down, with a lack of consultation when making decisions that affect the community. Respondents referred to general difficulties in dealing with officials, the multitude of initiatives and a lack of learning.

• Taking the Process Further

Community research was felt to be a very positive way to avoid the fatigue of over-consultation and over-researched-ness. The community researchers were highly committed and generated considerable depth and breadth of material. A richness and diversity of materials were uncovered during the fieldwork. As a result, only some of the materials were able to be drawn upon in the exhibition (Activity 4).

In their own words, interviews 2011-2012

Sustainability means working on having a better future for humans and the earth (Community interviewee)

We need to promote a healthy and involved community (Community interviewee)

Providing relevant training and support to volunteers is very important and gives them the tools needed to develop and empower themselves and their communities (Community interviewee)

I think it is down to the people, if they are not interested or engaged, there is no community (Community interviewee)

Cooperation between communities, public services and the private sector is needed and crucial so that the community can meet and face the challenges of climate change, pollution growth (Community interviewee)

Sustaining the economic models compounds the problem – any model of sustainability should include a radical agenda (Community interviewee)

Activity 5: Universities and Sustainable Cities

In brief:
- Universities engage with their cities in very many ways – through their estates, teaching, research and outreach activities.
- Mapping the engagement of universities with the GM city-region is complex in terms of identifying relevant research or 'complete' institutional profiles.
- There are no single points of contact for external stakeholders across the topics that comprise an integrated understanding of sustainable urban development.
- There is a need to develop nuanced and informal processes of engagement and networking to facilitate work on GM-related issues for sustainability in GM.
- The work highlighted the potential for sustainability as a new paradigm for academic/policy engagement in the city-region more in tune with the range of economic, social and environmental issues.
- A more practice-based approach to university engagement is needed.

Project Background

A great deal has been written on the relationship between universities and their cities in the context of discourses on the knowledge-based economy. Academic research has added nuance to these debates in terms of distinguishing between different types of institution, the nature of urban space and categorising types of interaction according to the purpose of activity.

Sustainable urban development is one of those 'wicked issues' which demands new forms of knowledge that combines different disciplinary perspectives, integrates academic and non-academic expertise, is globally excellent and relevant at a local level. This poses a challenge to the traditional structures and cultures of universities.

There is a history of collaborative working in the Greater Manchester city-region. Much of this has been around the innovation and knowledge-based agenda. Previous work highlighted the limits to this engagement. One of the critical issues in the Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena project was to examine whether 'sustainability' as opposed to 'innovation' could offer a new paradigm for collaboration, capable of transcending devilish dichotomies around science/knowledge, economy/society, global/local and excellence/relevance?

What Did We Do

This activity was designed to re-engage with issues concerning the contribution of the GM universities to the sustainable urban development of GM. This includes consideration of the changing context for interactions between the university and local authorities and learning lessons from the past, as well as identifying challenges, capacities, examples of good practice and potential collaborative working. Specifically, it was designed to explore the knowledge base for sustainable urban development in Greater Manchester and scope the possibility for re-igniting a debate around universities and GM as a sustainable city-region.

How Did We Do It

A partnership model for the research was developed, involving staff at the Universities of Salford and Manchester. A first phase of research involved desk-based mapping across the four GM universities. The second phase involved a series of interviews within each of the four institutions. The third phase included a workshop in October 2012 between academics and practitioners to explore issues and opportunities, gaps and synergies for a closer integration between universities and the city-region.

Summary of Findings

- The Strategic Importance of Sustainability

The work found that sustainability had a greater mobilising power as a rationale for engagement compared with innovation and economic growth. All institutions have a strong commitment to social, economic and environmental sustainability, drawing on the wide range of their local and regional engagements. More importantly, sustainability also had resonance at other levels of university hierarchies and a broader appeal for academics that were minded to work in innovative, transdisciplinary ways. This would seem to point to a potential for 'sustainability' to offer a new collaborative rationale for universities engagement with the city-region. However, there remains a tension between those activities that are oriented towards economic growth and economic competitiveness and those that seek to develop more integrated sets of environmental, economic and social impacts.

There is a danger that 'green' may become the new brand, symbolically important to universities as they seek to improve their ratings in the green league tables and illustrate their credentials.

There is a clear distinction between the strategic orientation of the Greater Manchester universities towards urban sustainability and the different practices that are undertaken by academics. There was recognition from both those with strategic and operational responsibilities that there is as much to gain from endeavours formed organically from within the academic communities of the universities - as there is through a top down approach. There was also recognition by all that, although the desire is strong, there can be conflicting priorities which means that strategic intent is not always exemplified in practice

- Representing Institutions and Reputations

The distinction between institutional/individual practices and the complexity and lack of homogeneity of Universities renders the production of a valid, comprehensive or static overview of any universities' activities near impossible. The respondents noted significant differences between the institutional reputations of the different institutions. The limits of a web-based mapping, together with the partial views of institutional activity that individuals could hold, meant that institutional representations can only be indicative. Respondents tended to highlight examples – particular projects or initiatives – which could be seen as emblematic of the institutions' engagement with sustainability.

Apparent institutional strengths from the mapping exercises emerged, but given the variability of online data it was felt that an authoritative institutional narrative was not possible from the mapping exercise. In some cases, clear strategic support had provided a fertile context for projects and initiatives. In other cases, activities were undertaken despite, not because of conditions within universities, drawing on the motivations and time of individual academics. Further work to understand how universities enable and constrain innovative practices around sustainability would be beneficial in fostering more supportive cultures for projects and initiatives to flourish.

• Main themes

Outside of the research mapping, issues raised by interviewees can broadly be divided into four categories: campus and curriculum; urban and regional development; knowledge exchange and engagement and the changing context. The most widely publicised activities involve efforts to green the campuses as well as the lifestyles of university staff and students. These sustainable urban development activities align closely with each institution's corporate social responsibility mission and environmental innovation focus of sustainability in Greater Manchester.

Meanwhile, research and teaching on Greater Manchester urban development issues involves a variety of disparate programmes and projects that are not joined up in a coherent framework. An increasing emphasis on 'impact' within the UK Higher Education sector suggests that sustainable urban development will attract more attention from university staff over time. However, there continues to be a split between business innovation and its emphasis on innovation and product development vs. grassroots community development and facilitation. This suggests very different (but potentially complementary) ways that universities can contribute to sustainable development in the future.

• A Changing Context for Collaboration

Most interviewees thought that the changing context surrounding the university system presented challenges for the future role of the university in driving forward sustainable urban development. There can be a tension between the business case and the desire to maintain responsiveness to the local context.

There were differing views on how this might play out. On the positive side, the need to change has the potential to develop more partnership working between universities, colleges, schools and the local community and the Local Enterprise Partnership policy was given as an example that forced a city-regional approach. was given as an example of a policy that forced a city regional approach. On the other hand, some saw the policy landscape to be moving in the direction of elitism and elite universities with the long term prospect of increased casualisation and an overall reduction in the number of institutions. As universities are increasingly looking inwards since the rising of tuition fees and sector-wide cuts, there is a danger that institutional reprioritisation will be at the expense of the broader sustainability agenda.

Examples were given of how previous collaboration between the universities had been helpful, although this was accompanied by a general understanding that much of this collaboration happens between individual academics from the different institutions. Many agreed in principle that there was a benefit in the universities working together in this way though there was a divergence of opinion in terms of how effective this had been in the past and barriers were identified that may hinder collaboration in the future. The changing governance context, public sector reform agenda and austerity are seen to have created uncertainty about the desirability and feasibility of strategic institutional collaboration.

• Nostalgia for the Past: In Search of an Alternative Future?

In the demand for a one-stop shop to access university knowledge, a strategic intermediary body and networks for research across the universities, we can see the long hand of history. Greater Manchester has tried these initiatives before under the banner of the knowledge- or science city. Learning from history is important if we are not to replicate the same short-termism, as financial resources shift to other priorities.

Overall the activity reveals a central paradox: that of clear institutional limits to collaborative city-regional engagement alongside increasing evidence of individual practices that have the potential to contribute to more sustainable urban futures. This suggests a more practice-based, informal approach to university engagement and learning from key examples about how spaces for discretion and innovation can be improved within existing institutional contexts.

A host of individual practices, projects and programmes which have the potential to open up the debate on green economy, low carbon futures and sustainability in its multiple guises in the city-region. We see experiments, urban laboratories and demonstrator sites proliferating across the city-region, academic activists seeking to influence policy agendas, guerrilla academics or those 'gone native' who have moved outside the boundaries of the academy in search of greater transformative possibilities. It is in these initiatives that the possibilities for academic leadership on the sustainability agenda lie, to give meaning and substance to institutional strategies.

Universities need to better share knowledge in the interests of the public urban good. Whether on campus developments, embedding sustainability in the curricula, engaging with communities, working with schools, developing low carbon cultures through staff and student activities, there is much to gain and little to lose from thinking in one institution being shared with another.

A more nuanced approach to the relationship between governance, policy and knowledge is needed to develop two-way and fluid relationship between structures, organisations and people. There are limits to a structured, institutional engagement - even in a more value-based arena such as sustainability compared with innovation. We are left therefore with an interesting question: if the limits to institutional collaboration have been met, can individual academics be better supported to play a role in addressing the sustainability agenda more innovatively and if so, how?

• What is Needed?

The work points to six recommendations for universities:

1. Acting as strategic agents for change. In a rapidly changing urban context, universities are potential catalysts through the students, staff and the communities they engage for broader change. Universities should exemplify best practice in engaging with city-regional developments, such as Carbon Literacy or the UNESCO Regional Centre of Excellence for Education for Sustainability.

2. Learning from examples. Case studies of exemplars, experiments and examples of good practice are needed. How and under what conditions do these emerge from the University? What makes them successful? What are the implications for fostering more collaborative initiatives in urban sustainability?

3. Internal flows of knowledge. Universities need to improve the internal flows of knowledge and research about sustainability to increase the visibility and coherence of relevant work. Internal networks and governance structures are needed across themes and areas. Improving awareness of relevant work will assist external partners in linking with the university.

4. Inter-institutional knowledge-sharing networks. Inter-university forums for sharing best practices in institutional sustainability strategies should be fostered, including on campus developments, how to embed sustainability in the curricula and how to bring about cultural change for more sustainable futures.

5. University-urban research forums. Existing networks should be built upon to create urban research forums, bringing researchers and practitioners together in informal infrastructures. Through highlighting different research on urban sustainability and responding to particular external themes, a two-way exchange of knowledge between the research base and external partners can be built.

6. Providing relevant live information through news bulletins. Nominated points of contact should be identified to 'showcase' relevant research on the GM LIP's digital platform. This would provide a regular stream of short news items of research findings as they emerge.

In their own words, interviews 2011-2012
We need to set our own house in order… picking individual areas/activities where we have possibility to create new partnerships….universities have had their biggest transformation in funding since Thatcher… and we need to think about our engagement with the outside world and our curriculum (Senior Management)

There's got to be a way that we can work smarter as institutions…There's a huge amount going on, because people are keen and it matters and people care about it. But it's not as effectively joined up as it might be (Senior Management)

Is sustainability too broad? I don't think so, it is what it is. Therein lie challenges and opportunities. It is too vague but because of that, it's incredibly flexible and malleable (Senior Management)

Universities have a massive environmental impact. But more importantly, they act as educators (Senior Management)

Activity 6: Digital Governance and Sustainability

In brief:
- Existing websites and other digital internet platforms offer very few benchmarks for the promotion and discussion of sustainable urban development in GM.
- There is an opportunity to create a platform in GM that would act as a model for the promotion and discussion of sustainable urban development.
- Critics of digital governance question claims that digital ICT has actually made, or has the potential to make, the policy-making process more efficient, more effective, participative and collaborative.
- These are challenges that any new platform would need to address and be subject to learning and evaluation.

Project Background

As cities become more complex and urban issues more difficult to address, we need to look at how cities are organised and managed. The number of different organisations and bodies which need to be involved in sustainable urban development has proliferated and multiple sources of knowledge are needed to address multi-dimensional urban challenges.

In 21st century Britain the localism agenda and public sector reform has further shaken up the organisation and management of cities. Many people have remarked that knowledge and skills about sustainability are being lost and that there is no way of accessing or understanding the myriad activities undertaken in the city-region. Engaging with communities around sustainability is also critical if activities are to have a transformative impact beyond the short-termism of political terms of office. Learning is poor – both from past initiatives and from current activity. Is digital governance a tool to address these issues?

What Did We Do

This pilot activity explored the desirability and feasibility of digital platforms in the sustainable development of Greater Manchester. The activity sought to understand the need for and potential of such a platform and consider whether it could bridge the perceived gap between those who 'govern' the city-region and the people who live and work there.

How Did We Do It

The work was carried out by Creative Concern in partnership with SURF. The process began with an assessment of existing websites and other digital platforms in terms of their excellence in communicating to a network of individuals and organisations; provision of practical guidance (in the form of case studies, examples of best practice, expert knowledge); multiplicity of channels (e.g. Twitter, LinkedIn) and the quality of their mission statement (clarity, relevance, engagement with individuals and groups).

A development workshop was organised to discuss the findings and identify the requirements for a new digital platform with a small group of people from the digital and environment sectors in Greater Manchester.

Presentations were also made to key leadership groups in Greater Manchester: a Chief Officers' group and the GM Environment Commission. This was supplemented by a review of academic literature on digital governance, aimed at identifying the issues and challenges that would face any new initiative. The literature review was undertaken by SURF. Relevant academic papers, policy documents and other texts were identified and the contents analysed to reveal key themes relating to the role of digital information and communication technology (ICT), including websites and social networking sites, in the governance of sustainability.

Summary of Findings

• Few Digital Benchmarks

Creative Concern undertook a survey of global websites covering the area of Sustainable Urban Development and of digital information hubs and websites more tightly focused on the future for Greater Manchester. In terms of virtual governance, knowledge sharing and transparency around sustainability, it is clear that apart from a few stand-out examples, there is little to be found through initial desk research that suggests benchmarks are being set for best practice in this area. Initial research, which combined desk research with interviews and a practitioners' workshop, revealed that:'

> Globally, there are a handful of online centres of sustainable urbanism but no single city has 'cracked the code' on wiring its governance of sustainability together – this is a prize to be won.

> Locally, there is a significant lack of online 'buzz' around sustainability beyond a few blogs and news feeds maintained by activists and formal websites are rarely updated. This is holding back progress in integrating activities and reinforcing a democratic deficit in which knowledge remains concentrated amongst a small group of people.

> Across the networks driving forward sustainable urban development in Greater Manchester there is an appetite and willingness to collaborate that could form the foundations of a new experiment in the virtual governance of sustainability.

There are very few active platforms for the promotion and discussion of sustainable urban development. Those that do exist, or have existed, are predominately government-led projects, which are limited by funding to a set period and/or lack the purpose and vision required to keep them active. Successful networks tend to have a passion for the subject and a mission to make a difference. They don't exist solely as a knowledge hub to disseminate information. Only a handful of sites could be described as well-designed, regularly updated, well-visited by a broad user base and genuinely designed, from the bottom up, with users in mind.

At the very local level, most of the relevant sites are either dormant or infrequently updated, making them more of a 'bookshelf' for information than a live, discursive on-line environment for steering the course of sustainability.

The issue-based or project-based sites are livelier but they either have a much narrower audience base or are short-lived due to funding constraints.

• The Uniqueness of Greater Manchester

As a landscape across which to map virtual governance of sustainable urban development, the city offers a great deal of opportunity, including:

> Strong and growing digital and creative sectors.

> A published and clear set of goals around sustainability and climate change.

> Singular assets in terms of the knowledge economy and higher education.

> Newly developed autonomy in key areas of governance courtesy of a new 'city deal'.

> 'Go-to' players in sustainability who are well-networked.

> High levels of digital connectivity including aspirations for citywide free wi-fi.

> Identifiable leadership bodies for sustainability.

> A broader civic partnership focused on sustainability.

The upshot? A classic situation of challenge and opportunity fused as one. The challenge is to create a new platform for interaction where none exists and where no models, have been set for success. A second challenge is the continuing constraints on public sector resources to support or initiate the creation of such a platform. The opportunity however is that we could create a model for digital governance of cities that has not, to this day, been created before.

• A Platform for GM

Across the various networks of people interested in the sustainable development of GM, there is a willingness to collaborate that could form the foundations for a new experiment or pilot activity. A proposed platform could share knowledge, transmit news and provide information about sustainability across GM. It would be aimed at decision makers in business, government and the third sector, but also be designed and written in a form that will reduce the democratic gap in terms of people's awareness and understanding of what's being done in the city region; reduce the number of websites in play and promote or signpost people to specialist platforms. The content will be generated by a broad base of contributors – including those within communities - but moderated and bolstered by a core editorial team. It will be not-for-profit and, as far as possible, the content will be 'open source', free for others to distribute.

• Efficiency, Effectiveness and Participation

Advocates of digital governance claim that digital ICT has actually made, or has the potential to make, the policy-making process more efficient and more effective. The aspiration is to transform it from being a largely exclusive process, dominated by elected representatives, bureaucrats and agents to a more inclusive process, in which policy-makers engage and work with communities in setting agendas through to implementing and assessing policies.

Critics claim that the supposed cost savings and value for money are not realised in practice, citing the poor design, procurement, installation,

(Source: Creative Concern)

management and use of ICT by the public sector. They also explain that digital ICT can actually reinforce and/or reconfigure existing governance structures and relations, not least by generating new and complementary forms of inclusion and exclusion -- a "digital divide" – and by reinforcing the values and concerns of distinct communities of interest, closed off from different perspectives, unwilling to compromise, and unwilling to engage in the pursuit of a more sustainable future.

A challenge for a new platform is to overcome these tendencies.

In their own words, interviews 2011-2012
I think the main point for me is using this platform to link up with the people who are not normally linked in, i.e. connecting with the unconnected. But we need a nicer descriptor than 'unconnected'
(City Stakeholder)

Sort of, not the usual suspects, but reaching the new and uninitiated, casting light on new territory... Going further than we've ever gone before... Reaching new audiences
(City Stakeholder)

Activity 7: Creative Production, Practice and Exchange

In brief:
- Creative approaches were used to engage with school-children and citizens about sustainability in Greater Manchester.
- Positive feedback on the two activities suggest the potential of creative production, practice and exchange to inspire people to think and behave more sustainably despite everyday pressures.
- Using different visual and creative methods, insights into different perspectives on sustainability and fair, green and dense cities were generated.
- Learning lessons relate to the need for leadership, balance between processes and the generation of high quality products and the challenges of co-production.
- The activities point to the importance of recognising different modes of engagement with sustainability – visual, sensory, kinesthetic, ambulatory and textual – to share knowledge and embed learning for more sustainable urban futures.

Project Background

Climate change and urban sustainability are often seen as technical problems requiring technical solutions. Targets are set and new pieces of technology developed to help in meeting them. Yet there is an emerging body of research and practice that points to the need for mass cultural and behavioural change if more sustainable cities are to be realised. People are struggling to make ends meet and sustainability is seen as a luxury or burden by many. What is the potential of creative production and practice in inspiring communities and groups to productively engage in the co-creation of more sustainable urban futures?

What Did We Do

Two activities were developed to better understand the potential of creative play and production in generating new debates and engaging with different audiences in urban sustainability. One pilot activity worked with the Eco-Schools team in Temple Primary school to explore understandings of sustainability in their local area and generate multi-media content. The second pilot activity was an exhibition put together as part of the Economic and Social Research Council's Festival of Social Science. This was designed to take insights from across all of the pilot activities and represent these for different non-academic audiences around the themes of Fair, Green and Dense. The school children and the community researchers (see Activities 3 and 4) produced art-work and inputs to the exhibition.

How Did We Do It

The first activity brought together Temple Primary School, Buddleia, okf productions, the SURF Centre, Creative Concern and Manchester Environmental Education Network. The school was keen to work with film and chose an option based on three of the artists' CVs. The team then developed a process comprising: an exploration of the local area in Cheetham Hill; a philosophy for children session around the themes of Fair, Green and Dense cities; a reflection and story-telling exercise; production of large-scale art work depicting utopian and dystopian visions of future Cheetham Hill; a short stop-start animation and an eco-rap performed by the children.

The second activity, with co-funding from the ESRC Festival of Social Science, was an exhibition of the children's work and animation, alongside the work of the community researchers and an exhibition of the material generated by the Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena project as a whole. The project team included SURF, Buddleia and Creative Concern. A speakers' corner was developed over the weekend of the Festival and visual artists illustrated the work in real-time. Manchester Environmental Education Network had a workshop with the school children in the exhibition space.

Summary of Findings
• The Potential of Creative Production, Practice and Exchange

Temple Primary school is a dynamic primary school based in Cheetham Hill, which is one mile north of Manchester City Centre. Only ten years old, it is a particularly large school with approximately 560 pupils aged 3-11 and around 97 staff. The children reflect the cultural diversity of the area coming from 23 different countries and between them speak 27 languages. The largest ethnic groups are Pakistani, Arabic and Somali. Temple Primary is also a Manchester Eco School an international scheme co-ordinated by Manchester City Council and Manchester Environmental Education Network (MEEN).

Eco Schools provide a framework to support schools working in different environmental and sustainable topics. The nine topics are energy, water, biodiversity, schools' grounds, healthy living, transport, litter, waste and global

citizenship. Registered schools work towards a Bronze and Silver Awards and ultimately a Green Flag. Temple School has already achieved three Green Flag awards.

A number of benefits were highlighted by the school from the process as a whole, including: creative engagement as an effective way to help children deal with tackling difficult or complex concepts and ideas as they are able express themselves often in non-verbal ways and explore a topic or idea from different angles; taking the children into non-school environments and into the community; exposing the children to new equipment and opportunities for expression; increasing the capacity of the school to engage in new activities and develop greater team working. The children were also able to show the final film to their parents and attend the exhibition to see their work as part of a broader discussion about sustainability in Greater Manchester.

The exhibition also had positive feedback. A particular success was felt to be the visual artists illustrating the discussions and debates in real-time, which added vibrancy to the physical space. The contributors to speakers' corner were able to see their thoughts and perspectives on sustainability become part of the exhibition and thus create a 'live' research environment. The space of the exhibition was designed to represent the ethos of the GM LIP as a whole, through the work of the community researchers gathering 'stories' from attendees via the questionnaire.
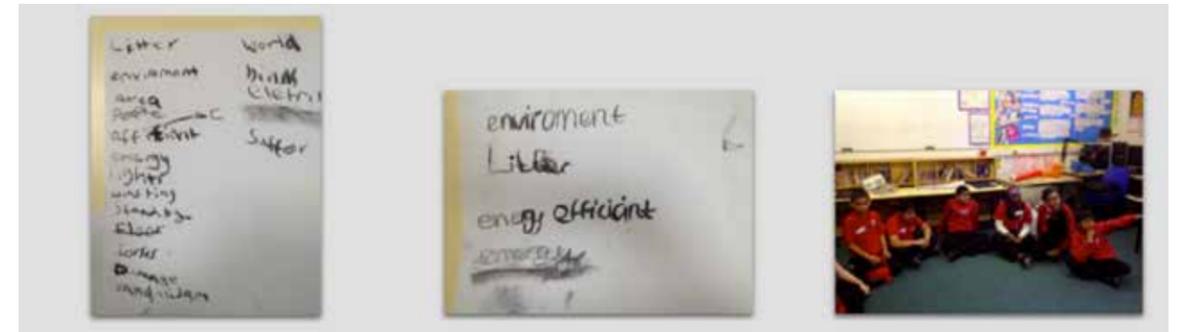
(Working with Temple Primary School. Credit: Buddleia).

(Sustainable Stories Exhibition, Visual Minutes produced by Creative Connection).

• Sustainability as a Multi-Faceted Concept

The Eco Schools team addressed the terms Fair, Green and Dense through group discussion and word play. A variety of creative methods were introduced to the children such as drawing, colour, film, photography, animation, model making, spoken word and performance. The children's reflections on their walkabout were insightful concerning density and social relationships, homelessness and fairness and the issues around the use of local public areas, such as the park.

The children's vision of the future, whilst green and reflecting cultural diversity, looks almost rural and reminiscent of a less industrialised past. Ideas included the iconic hill of Cheetham Hill, which had a vast fresh water river with fish running down it. They wanted to see big open spaces depicted through various expressions of nature including trees, flowers and a rainbow as well as bees and a beehive.

Play areas included play equipment and the future appeared to be open, green and fertile. Among the very few buildings they chose to depict there was a multi-faith centre, which incorporated all symbols of faith. The children seemed to be very respectful of a fully encompassing, multi-faith centre and it seemed to be an essential component of their harmonious vision of the future for Cheetham Hill.

The other notable building was their school, which remained central in their point of reference for the area. Through the process, it was noted that the children were opened up to bigger ideas surrounding sustainability and the wider impact it may have beyond their immediate locality.

(Two visions of Cheetham Hill, 500 years in the future. Credit: Buddleia)

Within the exhibition, Fair, Green and Dense were deployed as organising principles. This worked well in framing the different contributions from the Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena project into common reference points for a broader audience.

• The Value of Multi-Stakeholder Processes

The activity with the Eco-Schools was process-centred. The school and the participants were positive about their engagement with the project and the benefits that the children had experienced. The children were responsible for using the equipment themselves and carrying out interviews with each other. Overall, it was the multi-stakeholder process which was most highly valued, rather than the product itself.

The exhibition was curated around the themes of Fair, Green and Dense cities drawing on statistical data, the Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena project and the work of the community researchers. The children's art work was displayed and a rolling presentation was created with the eco-rap and filmed interviews with key stakeholders, including representatives of the school, MEEN and the GM LIP. A laptop was available for visitors to listen to the fieldwork of the community researchers. However, in treating the exhibition as a research space and inviting speakers to present their views, the process of hosting the exhibition was as valuable as the outputs themselves.

• Co-producing Projects

Both activities were co-produced with briefs evolving in partnership between a range of agencies. They were exploratory and designed in the melting pot between different participants. This led to a rich and exciting set of processes of a fluid nature. Different partners had different agendas – the school stipulated an interest in film; the GM LIP introduced the themes of Fair, Green and Dense; other partners were interested in climate change and carbon reductions. This led to changes in direction and new ideas being introduced, such as the rap, which were not part of the original brief.

The exhibition also brought together different ideas from partners. The idea of the Visual Artists and Speakers' Corner, introduced by stakeholders, were critical in interpreting the initial vision of an active and living research space.

Compromises were necessary in the co-production of the projects, with the final outputs not reflecting a single pre-determined vision. A learning lesson is that sufficient time must be allowed for collaborative leadership and clarity of roles and responsibilities, even in organic, creative and evolving processes. The limitations of timeframes and budgets can be counter-productive in this respect.

• Sensory, Visual and Textual Understandings

Both activities point to the importance of engaging with big ideas through multiple sensory, visual, kinesthetic, ambulatory and textual means. The children worked very well through engagement with the physicality of the environment – it was the first time they had explored their own environment as an eco-team. They were encouraged to listen, observe and reflect on their experiences. The work included working with film technology, big chalks and large pallets and the mediums of engagement inter-related with their understanding of the subject matter.

The primary content of the exhibition was text-based, telling a simplified story of the GM LIP through the lenses of Fair, Green and Dense and illustrated with quotes, fact boxes and simple images. A video was shown of the school-children's animation and interview material. The Visual Artists also primarily used text. However, this was one of the most successful elements of the exhibition as people enjoyed seeing sustainability come alive around them,

outside the normal discursive boundaries of academia. Collectively, this points to the need to appreciate different ways of learning and acquiring new skills and how knowledge can be creatively exchanged.

In their own words, interviews 2011-2012

The church could be a playground - It needs to change - Waste of space - Needs more plants - Big disaster! (from Children's walkabout)

A dense city is where there are lots of people and we do live in one. A green city has lots of nature and we don't live in one. A fair city grows its own food. We might live in one. (Child – Child Interview)

The project has taken it wider than their school. Because a lot of their projects have been school-based projects – it's taken them into their environment, in Cheetham Hill and into Manchester. (School Teacher)

It has got everyone excited and enjoying themselves thinking about what the future might be like. Everyone seems really involved. The children understand they are part of a bigger planet (Manchester Environmental Education Network).

Activity 8: Networking the Greater Manchester LIP

In brief:
- There are distinctive patterns in the way that cities have pursued sustainable urban development in the English context from 1990 until today.
- Post 2010, under the Coalition government's form of localism, an increasingly complex and diversified picture is evolving in the approaches to cities towards sustainable urban development.
- It is clear that cities have an important role to play in the promotion of sustainable urban development and in the mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- However, the capacities of cities to promote sustainable urban development are established crucially on long-term investment in the 'place qualities' of embedded knowledge, strong institutions, effective leadership and trusting network relationships, all of which may only be built up and sustained over time.
- The processes involved need to be much better understood, not just locally but also in central government.

Project Background

Greater Manchester is not an island. A number of academic and policy studies have highlighted how cities' responses to the challenges of sustainability are shaped by a broader set of national-local and city-city relationships. Since the new Coalition government in the UK in 2010, relationships between national government and cities have been reshaped. What are the consequences of these changes? How important are cities' broader spatial networked relationships for how they address sustainable urban development? What value is there in learning between and across different urban responses to sustainability in 21st Century Britain?

What Did We Do

This activity explored how cities have pursued sustainable urban development through spatial networks in a UK (English) context. It contributes to a three year project which maps what challenges cities are facing, what solutions are used and how policies can be more effective through the inclusion of local and other forms of knowledge (see Activity 1).

Two questions were considered: what is the role of spatial networks in sustainable urban development? In what ways do these networks contribute to policy transfer and learning? These questions are considered in a broad context of change in local governance in England, which was driven by a broad range of political, economic, social as well as environmental factors.

How Did We Do It

The background research to this project was conducted over two stages during 2012 by Paul Hildreth, an Independent Advisor on Local and Regional Economic Development. Stage one, a review of literature, was undertaken on the impact of networks and policy transfer on approaches towards sustainable urban development from the early 1990s until today. Stage two was a series of interviews conducted with local authority officers and Local Enterprise staff and partners in five English cities: Birmingham; Bristol; Leeds; Leicester and Newcastle. The aim of these interviews was to inform understanding of the context, purpose and role of networks at different spatial levels (city, city-region or sub-region, and neighbourhoods) in promoting sustainable urban development.

Summary of Findings

- Distinctive Patterns of Network Development

The research has shown that the path that these networks have followed is not linear. It is possible to identify distinctive patterns (or waves) within three time periods since 1990 (1990 to 2000, 2000 to 2010 and 2010 onwards) covering networks within a national/sub-national context and internationally (see Figure 1). The period 1990-2000 can be identified as a period of experimentation in emergent networks and partnerships in an era of municipal voluntarism. A number of leading cities, including our case study cities of Birmingham, Bristol, Leicester and Newcastle responded early on to the challenge of climate change and became at their own initiative frontrunners in the UK, participating internationally and locally from the beginning of this period onwards. Leeds was a front-runner through its creation of a strategic partnership for the city in the form of the Leeds Initiative.

2000 to 2010 coincided with the mature years of the Labour government. This was a period when more bottom-up diverse approaches towards spatial networks that had evolved in the 1990s had increasingly to conform within a top-down 'community leadership' framework constrained by local agreements, targets, indicators and performance regimes. There were positive things about this period, including the national indicators for climate change and the Climate Change Act 2008. However, what might have appeared to have been a benign decade of economic stability and relative resource availability (certainly compared with today), might now on reflection seem like an era of relative missed opportunity.

Figure 1: Networks in Sustainable Urban Development, 1990-2013
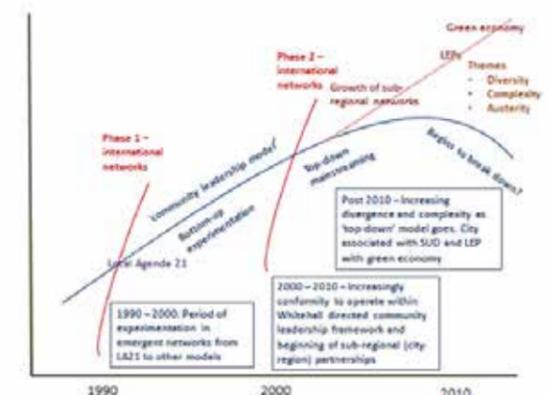
(Paul Hildreth, GM LIP Working Paper 8)

What has emerged post-2010 is both more diverse and more complex. The Coalition government has 'claimed' a localism agenda. Much of the top-down performance and inspection infrastructure developed by Labour has gone. This has created new freedoms and opportunities for local authorities, including in relation to pursing sustainable urban development. However, this is balanced by increasing austerity in local government budgets through reduced government grants and freezes in Council Tax. Varied patterns are emerging in the way that different cities are responding in shaping their

networks for sustainable urban development. Standardised top-down models imposed by the Centre (e.g. Local Strategic Partnerships, LSP) are being replaced by more distinctive approaches designed locally and appropriately to the different 'place-based' characteristics of the city (and its sub-region/city-region). These are driven by an increasingly complex range of motivations and drivers.

• Advancement of Networks for Sustainable
  Urban Development in Cities

Important issues can be identified. First, within the case studies the city is becoming the primary context for pursuing networks for sustainable urban development, whilst the sub-region (city-region) is becoming the main setting to progress the competetiveness of the local (and green) economy. This pattern has been reinforced by the abolition of (formal) regional spatial planning and the creation of private sector-led LEP around an economic growth agenda. An exception is Leeds, where the development of city-regional working is the most advanced of the case study cities (followed by the West of England LEP and Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP).

Second, whilst the international dimension to networks for sustainable development is less pronounced than it was in the 1990s or even 2000s, it still remains important. Of the case study cities, Birmingham, Bristol, Leicester and Newcastle are still particularly active internationally in networks (e.g. Euro Cities, ICLEI, Energy Cities, the European Covenant of Mayors and European Green Capital) and see participating in these as important to innovation in sustainable urban development locally.

Third, the role of networks in sustainable urban development has changed. In the early days (1990s), the focus was on developing relationships and trust within networks and identifying strategy, for example, through the Local Authority 21 process. Since 2000, not only have partnership networks become more mainstreamed, but the focus has also shifted increasingly from identifying strategy to delivery. The emphasis on delivery has become even more pronounced since 2010. This is reinforced by the impact of austerity on local authority budgets and incentives, such as through the Energy Act 2011, to reach delivery agreements with Utility Companies, as well as increasing involvement by the private sector. This is in turn is promoting a stronger emphasis on innovation, as local authorities are increasingly forced to seek new resource and network solutions to problems. However, this is not an easy transition to make since it involves harnessing new skills sets for local government officers, particularly in working in projects with the private sector.

• Policy Implications

The first policy implication relates to the role of central government. It is clear that the kind of 'conditional' model of localism pursued by Labour had limitations for creating a context conducive to progress in city responses to climate change. The top-down target and performance regimes offered some benefits. These included a focus on climate change indicators and targets, improving the quality expertise on and quality of data recorded, encouraging local authorities to work in collaboration on climate change issues with the private and voluntary sectors and raising awareness of the need to put in place local

measures to address climate change. However, the downside is they tended to incentivise uniformity and discourage innovation.

On the other hand, the experience so far of the Coalition government indicates that the absence of a clear national policy framework towards climate change makes it harder for cities to be settled about the directions that they should take. Nevertheless, the case studies welcomed that government departments like Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) are engaging more fully in dialogue with local authorities than in the past. A case was made that this should be strengthened further with greater dialogue and consideration of staff secondments across local and central government and even with the private sector as a relatively low cost means of building cross-organisational competency, skills and understanding.

Second, there are limitations to the Coalition government's form of localism. A positive outcome is that the removal of Labour's performance framework and introducing new incentives has enabled innovation by the case study cities covered in this research. On the other hand, this is likely to be impacted by growing austerity in local authority budgets, where the incentive to find new solutions and manage budgets effectively is pushed to the point where cutting out important activities becomes the only option.

Third, the Centre, with its focus on short-term delivery, within the space of a single government administration, fails to grasp the significance of the embedded nature of knowledge and expertise within the context of 'place'. Building effective local networks for sustainable urban development takes time and requires maintaining momentum over the long-term. The role of the Centre in both challenging and incentivising creative change and innovation at the local level can be constructive. However, the chopping and changing of institutional frameworks may have counter-productive elements. The cities (city-regions) that are best placed at the present time are those that have been able to absorb the best bits of new institutional changes (e.g. the engagement of private sector leaders who have not worked with the public sector before, through the creation of LEP) and integrate them within their own long-term ambitions and structures.

They are places that have consistently built upon robust networks across geographies and sectors and can rely on trust in relationships to resolve challenging issues. The cities (city-regions) least best placed are those that constantly find themselves starting almost all over again in response to a new central initiative, as they find it difficult to hold together effective network relationships across places within their area. The result is that institutional capacity between places is widening to a potential gulf. There will be a few places (particularly larger cities like Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and Bristol) that are very well placed to pursue a sustainable urban agenda. There will be many others beyond the case study cities that will find it much more difficult.

The extent of austerity is putting progress at a local level at risk. It is also likely that the contribution that local 'places' can contribute to sustainable development is only partially understood in Whitehall. What may be missing is an appropriate understanding that progress locally is not just about policy initiatives. Local momentum in sustainable development is established critically on investment in the 'place' qualities of embedded knowledge, strong institutions, effective leadership and trusting network relationships; all of which may only be built up over time. Finally, this study has demonstrated that cities have an important role to play in pursuing sustainable urban development through spatial networks.

The evidence from the case study cities examined is that despite all the pressures that have been placed on them locally and centrally, cities, through their networks, are well placed to make an important contribution towards achieving sustainable urban development. In a context of 'globalisation' and the continuing 'hollowing out' of central government departments, Whitehall really does need strong sub-national actors to share in the governance of sustainable development and climate change.

In their own words, interviews 2011-2012

The Labour government's heart was in the right place. For example, setting up DECC was a really good move and to get the Climate Change Act through Parliament was absolutely brilliant, because it set the national context. Where there were problems is that they did not seem to understand the role of local authorities properly as key players contributing to all aspects to do with the environment (City Stakeholder)

We see sustainable development as something that makes us distinctive. Some of the great cities in Europe have been successful because they have focussed on the quality of the environment, which has enabled them to be prosperous cities as well (City Stakeholder)

The cumulative impact of loss of funding, a thinned out inspection regime, the sweeping away of centrally controlled performance management in local government has changed things. There is now much greater scope for genuinely local policy, although in a context of reduced resources (City Stakeholder)

Activity 9: Integrated Actions

In brief:
- Two integrated actions were carried out to bring stakeholders together to discuss thematic areas of importance to the mapping work.
- The integrated actions focussed on Business and Sustainable Development and Education for Sustainability.

Project Background
Mapping exercises can just involve sitting down and reading the literature or carrying out website searches. This is an isolated task and can be rapidly out-of-date if websites and other sources of information are not regularly updated. Alternative forms of mapping include focus groups, action learning sets or collective interviews.

Many of the activities involved different kinds of businesses, commercial and non-commercial, large and small and a variety of sectors. A critical question is how the interests of business in general can be reconciled with the broader interests of society to create sustainable cities? Education for sustainability is an important area for the mapping exercise, necessitating some additional reflection to complement the specific focus on universities (Activity 5).

What Did We Do
GM LIP designed two integrated actions for business and sustainability and education for sustainability. Key questions for the Business and Sustainability Integrated Action included: what does corporate responsibility mean?

To what extent are businesses in Greater Manchester (GM) behaving responsibly? What can be done to incentivise and enable those businesses to behave appropriately? Is GM more or less conducive to responsible behaviour than other urban areas? Key questions for the Education for Sustainability Integrated Action included: what are the main education needs for a sustainable GM and why? Who are the key players involved in GM? What are the challenges and opportunities? What is needed to ensure that education providers can best support a sustainable GM?

How Did We Do It
The process was undertaken by the Centre for Construction Innovation and the SURF Centre at the University of Salford and had three main phases. In the first phase, we carried out a brief review on each issue, gathering together examples of good practice from business, local development and governance perspectives. A briefing paper was written and discussed at a focus group interview. The Business and Sustainability integrated action involved local business representatives, including from the built environment sector and from business support organisations. The Education for Sustainability integrated action involved people with both knowledge and experience of existing initiatives and improvement opportunities, and a desire to inform future policy and research in the city-region.

Summary of Findings – Business and Sustainability

• Perspectives on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

There are three main perspectives on CSR: business for profit; CSR for profit; and CSR for CSR. The classic neo-liberal view is that the only responsibility of business is to make a profit -- the operation of free and competitive markets will ensure an economically, socially and environmentally desirable outcome. The 'enlightened' or 'pragmatic' view is that CSR is good for business, helping to make it to more competitive in various markets (including labour markets), to identify and manage external risks, and to access a larger pool of funds. The third view is that CSR is a value in itself. This view is typical of social enterprises and philanthropists.

• Testing Times

CSR is common practice among many businesses in GM. In some cases, this is demonstrated by their core business (e.g. regeneration, social housing) and the way they conduct that business (e.g. community engagement, supplier engagement). In other cases, it is demonstrated by 'charitable works', e.g. outreach work, and by contributions to the development of better policies (e.g. on climate change), over and above their core business; or by 'ethical plans' and the appointment of specialist staff, e.g. 'sustainability officers'. These commitments are being tested by the current economic and political climate, which encourages businesses (including clients and suppliers) to focus on the 'single bottom line'.

• Working to Keep Sustainability on the Agenda

Effective CSR requires more and better co-production, with commitment and input from all sides, including clients who are willing and able to put sustainability on the agenda and keep it there.

This means that decisions about all aspects of a project need to be made 'closer to the ground' drawing on the knowledge and expertise of suppliers, users and other bodies. It also means that CSR needs to be an essential part of any individual business and any project, not just a 'nice to do', so that any collaboration is aware of and committed to economic, social and environmental values. This may require education, especially of clients, who have the power to put such values on the agenda and keep them there.

(The New Co-op Headquarters, Catalyst for a Sustainable City? Credit: SURF)

• Partnerships

The group took the view that the conditions for CSR in GM are relatively good, citing a long history of collaboration and engagement around regeneration. GM has a long history of recognising the importance of regenerating its urban neighbourhoods and making them more attractive places to live. Positive attributes of the GM approach to regeneration included: integrating physical change with people-centred social and economic programmes; an aspiration for high environmental standards; partnerships with business and communities and a commitment to city-regional working, through the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

The Local Enterprise Partnership was felt to be important in bringing GM businesses together on economic development issues. GM also benefits from complementary developments in the private sector and third sector, including a shared vision, strong leadership and the capacity and capability to deliver desired outcomes. There is an important caveat: the nexus of public and private interests was felt by some to potentially represent an 'unholy and self-serving alliance' of public and private interests (e.g. around low carbon energy, regeneration, retrofit), outward facing, and generally at odds with the values of deprived and disconnected local communities.

Summary of Findings – Education and Sustainability

• Principles and Practices of Education

Education enables people to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values required to understand and change the way they live and work. According to UNESCO, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and, by association, Education for Sustainable Urban Development, requires a fundamental change in the principles and practices of education (formal, non-formal and informal). It needs to focus on the key issues, for example: climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction and sustainable consumption. The aim should be enabling the adoption of practices that contribute to more sustainable development, through 'participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour and take action for sustainable development'.

• Gaining Momentum

ESD has been gaining momentum in the UK, shaping national and local government policy on a range of issues, and supporting various initiatives, including the development of the curriculum in the pre-16 sector, the development of CPD, the establishment of networks and partnerships, and the funding of research on ESD. Progress has been patchy, especially in non-formal and informal education, and in making the connection between formal education and actual practices. In this regard, there have been positive developments in GM.

Manchester is the first city to undertake to empower all its citizens with carbon literacy. The project is built on the principle that when people are carbon literate they will have an instinctive understanding of the carbon impacts of their activities, as well as be able to make informed choices about the most energy and resource efficient options available to them.

UNESCO has approved Greater Manchester's application to become a Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The city-region has also reached an agreement with central government – the GM City Deal -- that includes a proposal to create a City Apprenticeships and Skills Hub. The latter aims to increase the number of apprenticeships for 16-24 year olds by 10 per cent to 6,000 by channelling funding direct to employers and bringing them to the centre of the design and delivery of skills programmes. It also gives apprentices and students have access to real market intelligence when they are making choices about their own learning.

Other initiatives include the Greater Manchester network for Black and Ethnic Minorities (BME), funded by the Big Lottery Fund and hosted by GMCVO to provide networking opportunities and infrastructure support to BME voluntary and community organisations across Greater Manchester. One of its key objectives has been to increase the influence of BME communities at district and city-region level. This has involved sharing good practice, promoting collaboration and improving confidence to take action.

This essentially involves education and training to address one of the main challenges to sustainable development – the exclusion of communities from the decision-making process.

There are numerous examples of organisations who consider education for sustainability to be good business practice, both for profit and other motives. Our focus group talked about the positive role of education in making the material fabric of the city more sustainable, by improving its design, procurement, construction, management and use; and in helping people to engage more effectively in the development of public policies. Yet they said that more work needs to be done to improve professional cultures and address digital divides.

• A Strong Position in GM

The group argued that GM is in a strong position to make progress, compared with other cities. They said that it has a relatively strong knowledge sector; a good record of working sustainably, collaboratively and creatively with other organisations and a coherent, evidence-based economic strategy, which recognises the role of education and training in SUD.

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In their own words, interviews 2012
The new-build schools programme provides a psychological boost and is good for environmental sustainability, but there are problems with the use of buildings, which disempowers people. We need to think differently when we build things; we need to think about the impact all around the system, e.g. what to do about the waste product; we need "systems thinking." (Participant)

Digital technology is important, but how does it benefit young people in, say, Cadishead, Little Hulton, with maximum Level 3 education. (Participant)

There is more we can do as professionals to promote collaborative working and represent people on the ground who'd benefit from further skills etc. (Participant)

GM is different because of its knowledge sector and how sustainably and how collaboratively it works, and its sparks of brilliance. (Participant)

We've put "green screens" in buildings, because we realised that few people understand energy certificates – it's about portraying energy use better. (Participant)

Activity 10: Impact Assessment

In brief:
- A typology was developed to capture the hard and soft impacts of the Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena project.
- The impact assessment sought to map the footprint of the project through developing quantitative proxies for engagement and impact around level, frequency and depth of engagement.
- This was supplemented by qualitative evidence from workshops, seminars and project partners.
- A local evaluation framework is being developed to capture longer-term impacts of the platform and examine the implications for evaluation more broadly.

Project Background

The impact of academic research is now a central part of the evaluation of all universities' activities. Ensuring that the work of Mistra Urban Futures is both academically excellent and relevant to stakeholders and different communities is a guiding principle. Yet how would we know? How can research-practice relationships and projects be reasonably assessed, given the different drivers and incentives that exist? A critical issue is to develop a framework for capturing impact that is realistic and emphasises more intangible or 'soft' outcomes as well as outputs. This is an ongoing project for the current duration of the GM LIP (to 2015).

What Did We Do

There is no existing evaluation framework that appears suitable for use on ambitious and multi-faceted social science projects such as this. This activity sought to develop a methodology for capturing quantitative and qualitative impacts and outcomes of the GM LIP. A direct outcome is a method for capturing the impacts of the platform. More broadly, the work is shaped by a set of academic debates concerning impact, evaluation and engaged social scientific research practice.

How Did We Do It

In 2012 the emphasis was primarily on data capture from events, interviews, partner meetings, presentations and web presence. Academic publications and reports are also included. The data for the impact assessment was mainly quantitative, comprising the list of individuals who had been engaged by the project, the list of activities through which we had engaged with individuals, the lists of individuals and the list of websites and web pages on which the project had featured. This was supplemented with quantitative and qualitative data from event feedback sheets.

The data were analysed using a typology of our 2012 activities. This typology also informs the development of a local evaluation framework into 2013 and beyond.

Summary of Findings

• A Typology of Levels and Types of Engagement

Drawing on previous work in SURF, a first task was to generate an approach for mapping the overall footprint of the GM LIP. Quantitative proxies for engagement and impact were developed around level, frequency and depth of engagement. The level of engagement in each

Table 3. Level and Type of Engagement

Level	Activity	Example	Individual Involvement
1	Lower-level awareness-raising	Invitation	Contactee
2	Higher-level awareness-raising	Presentation; Publication	Attendee
3	GM LIP supported activity	Seminar; workshop	Participant
4	GM LIP led activity	Seminar; workshop; exhibition	Participant
5	Bilateral activity	Interviews; meetings	Participant
6	Partner activity	Pilot actions; GM LIP meetings	Partner

event was determined by the type of activity, from lower-level awareness-raising through to partner activity (see Table 3), and moderated according to each individual's actual involvement in that event (e.g. active or passive). We were then able to determine each individual's frequency of engagement (by number of activities) and depth of engagement (by highest level of engagement). A full list of partners is in Annex 1.

This was combined with website presence as a proxy for the reach of the network. Website presence was determined by searching for web pages that mentioned the project. The resulting collection of links was analysed to determine the spread and quantity of exposure.

The quality of events, such as workshops and seminars, was determined by the delegates' responses to a combination of tailored statements with prescribed responses, e.g. "The event was informative. Do you strongly agree / agree / disagree / strongly disagree?", and a couple of open questions, e.g. "What did you like most about the event?" Feedback sheets were issued at four events.

Anecdotes and statements from partners were also used to provide a more qualitative feedback, including those impacts noted as part of the reflexive process of self-evaluation embedded in some projects, such as the Governance, Knowledge and Policy project (Activity 1).

• Key Statistics

The GM LIP organised 16 discreet engagement activities during 2012. In the process, we engaged directly with 308 individuals from over 150 organisations, and made contact with another 200 individuals. With regard to depth of engagement, 29 individuals were project partners, having been involved in the development of the main pilot activities and/or written essays on the sustainability of GM (See Figure 2, below). Another 6 had been actively involved in the project as interviewees; 77 took part in GM LIP-led activities, but were not partners and were not interviewed and 19 had been actively involved in GM LIP-supported activities. With regard to frequency of involvement, 45 people participated in more than one activity. Of these, 13 participated in 3 activities and 3 were involved in 7 activities (see Figure 3)
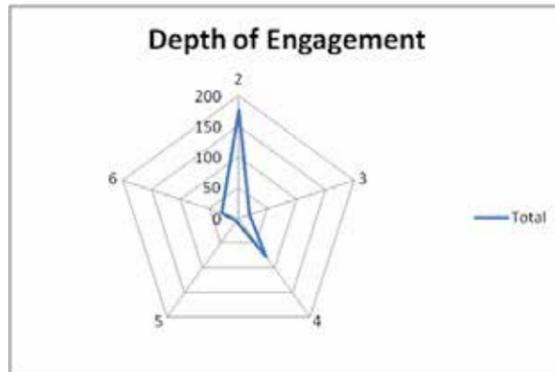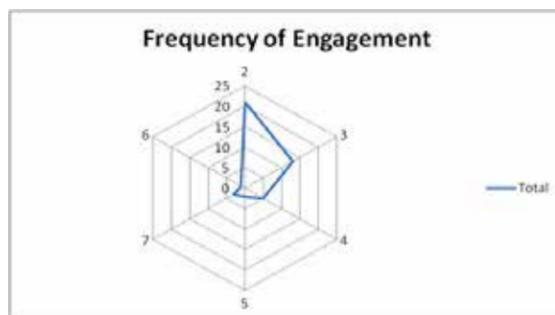
Figure 2: Depth of Engagement

Figure 3: Frequency of Engagement

• Events

The majority of surveyed delegates agreed that the events were worthwhile, e.g. informative, stimulating, interesting, and that they did what they were intended to do, e.g. to provide an opportunity to contribute and discuss ideas, knowledge and experiences, leading to the identification of practical recommendations for future actions. Some feedback, for instance, on the exhibition, noted that the events could have been better advertised in order to increase the reach and breadth of participants. It was also noted that

events about sustainability should embody that ethos. In several cases the GM LIP tried to source more sustainable, local providers for events, but encountered institutional barriers. A further learning lesson relates to the difficulty in creating forums to bring academics, community members, students, policy-makers and activists together and the danger that debates may 'fall between' in terms of the level of complexity/simplicity/language of the debates being discussed.

• Publications and Presentations (see Annex 2)

Over the course of the year, the GM LIP has made 28 presentations. Of the SURF presentations, 9 were made in GM, 7 in the rest of UK, 2 in Europe and 2 in Rest of World. Given the nature and timing of academic publications, the primary direct outputs are Working Papers and other materials such as from the exhibition. These Working Papers now form the basis for an ongoing publications strategy.

• Web Presence (see Annex 3)

The GM LIP has featured on 23 websites, providing exposure for its core activities; highlighting its awareness-raising activities, including its support for other projects; and providing general information and/or references to the project. The majority of the pages refer to the Sustainable Stories Exhibition

• Evidence of Project Impact

The impact evaluation also collected evidence of the project's actual and potential impact on the behaviour of stakeholders. One example is the International Pilot Project, 'Governance, Knowledge and Policy' (see Activity 1). Through this project and the baseline assessment it was noted that:

> There has been a general acceptance that a more comprehensive evidence base for sustainable urban development should be identified, compiled, maintained and analysed to inform future policy development. The Research Team at New Economy has agreed to perform this role.

> It has also been recognised that HEI/FEI research should be better included in the evidence base where it is specific to GM. A bid for EU funding to undertake some of this work and provide enhanced capacity for AGMA to engage with GM HEI/FEIs has been submitted. Consideration has been given as to how these institutions can be integrated into the Low Carbon Hub governance structure.

> There is a greater recognition within the GM Environment Team that the interaction between social and environmental aspects of sustainable urban development need to be better reflected in their work.

> Work to define a broader set of key indicators is ongoing and the findings of the baseline assessment will be fed into these discussions.

> The stakeholder analysis has identified significantly under-represented groups and consideration is being given as to how communication between AGMA and these groups can be improved, through news bulletins and online platforms.

The above was compiled in December 2012. It is clear that there continue to be project-based impacts such as this that the evaluation will record.

In their own words, impact 2012
I enjoyed the discussion with a diverse audience. (Event Attendee)

We need to engage with more diverse business representatives including those that are not involved in sustainable urban regeneration. (Integrated Action Participant)

I enjoyed the open interaction between informed and engaged partners. (Event Attendee)

It was good to meet a range of people from different backgrounds. (Event Attendee)

This is exactly the kind of thing we need to do to create better policy in the future. (Project Partner)

CHAPTER 3 – So What and What Next?

In brief:
• This chapter summarises the main themes and issues emerging through the Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena project.
• It describes the Programme of Work for the Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform for 2013 and beyond.

Contesting Sustainable Urban Development

Sustainable urban development is a hotly contested concept, particularly in the contemporary context. Many people maintain the importance of traditional understandings of sustainable urban development – reasserting the primacy of 'ecological-economic-social dimensions' and the need to think about the implications of current choices for future generations. However, there remain many different perspectives on sustainability in GM and questions over its usefulness as a term. This is not only about how the three pillars fit together, their respective inter-relationships or whether there is indeed a 'fourth' pillar, but also about alternative framings and interpretations that are based on different conceptions of value. In practice, a strong temporal dimension of sustainability – learning from the past or thinking about future generations – is also missing, despite this appearing to be what stakeholders most value.

The Mistra Urban Futures themes – Fair, Green and Dense Cities – worked well as organising principles. With the community researchers and the school children, discussing sustainability through these lenses served as an access point to the debates and enabled different opinions to be expressed. Importantly, as we tried to show in the exhibition, it enabled the tensions between different conceptions of sustainability to be understood: such as whether density leads to over-crowding or an efficient use of urban space, or to question who benefits from a green city?

Governing Sustainable Urban Development

Beyond broad policy statements, there is no holistic vision for the sustainable urban development of Greater Manchester. The policy framework is siloed. Connections and potential conflicts are not well articulated between policy areas. The extent to which current frameworks and strategies incorporate the views, aspirations and knowledges of different communities is limited. Instead a growth-centric economic model dominates; environmental concerns are recast as economic ones and social sustainability is largely missing at the Greater Manchester level.

In the context of austerity, public sector reform, localism and the ecological crisis, this situation is maintained as both cause and consequence through what can be seen as a 'crisis of governing'. This relates to the incomplete and uncertain reframing of a series of relationships: between Greater Manchester and the nation-state; between formal governance actors at GM and local authority level; between sectors; informal and formal actors and between communities, publics and public authorities. Flux and fragmentation characterise the current domain, leading to a series of questions over the appropriateness of governing practices for developing more sustainable futures.

Issues of legitimacy, voice, participation and democracy are then raised, in terms of addressing the 'democratic deficit' brought about through the disconnection between formal and informal governing practices in Greater Manchester. At the same time, those organisations that have acted as 'intermediaries', 'brokers', 'hubs' or 'centres for change' between policy elites and communities are under immense financial pressure, which diminishes their ability to effectively support sustainable communities on the ground.

(In Search of Sustainable Cities panel discussion, National Climate Week, March 2012)

Whose Knowledge Matters?

The knowledges required to understand and effectively navigate changing circumstances are not readily accessible. This is not about the re-invention of the wheel nor an emphasis on innovation or new knowledge for their own sake. Rather, there is a huge concern both about the leakage of knowledge in the context of job losses and about how to integrate existing knowledges – including those within communities and from the grassroots – to inform current decisions, priorities and pathways. There is no one size fits all solution, nor a city that seems to have cracked this issue.

Exploring the effectiveness of different tools, such as digital portals, is seen as one potential route to more effectively organise, search, communicate and deploy knowledge for sustainability. Working with community researchers, or deploying novel methods of knowledge exchange are others. One of the key challenges for organisations is to continue to effectively advocate collectively the benefits of using such community research practices to key strategic partners, policy makers and commissioners.

From our work, we undertook a number of different ways of working collaboratively with stakeholders, with different results. The main lesson of the work is that co-producing knowledge is not the same as saying we are all the same. The boundaries between organizations and individuals should not collapse. We can value different organisations' knowledge at the same time as acknowledging what is distinctive about all our expertise. Innovation in methods must not be at the expense of leadership or quality: co-production takes time and clear expectations and guidelines are needed.

The challenges therefore are three-fold: to test and explore different interventions which could improve governing in action; to develop a sense of collective cultural memory and learning and to understand and actively promote alternative visions and pathways towards sustainable urbanism that are being articulated within and outside the city-region.

An Original Modern Sustainable City-Region

Within the city-region, Greater Manchester's specific context requires consideration of both its industrial and post-industrial dimensions. One major challenge for the city-region is around the retrofitting agenda. This is not only an environmental concern, but concerns a wide variety of infrastructures in the city.

Many examples of good practice selected by stakeholders in the activities focus on the physical regeneration of the city in particular sites that enable more holistic schemes to be developed. Examples include the regeneration of Hulme, repopulation of the urban core, regeneration of Piccadilly Gardens or the redevelopment of the waterways. Yet a systemic socio-technical approach is needed which understands how site-specific projects can inform a context-sensitive framework for making sustainable and viable urban communities in different contexts.

A second major challenge is around the socio-cultural preconditions for sustainable urban development. Greater Manchester's economic growth in the 1990s was based largely on growth in the service sectors and it is clear that the discourse of the creative city in a post-industrial era is envisioned as central to the future progress of the city-region, embodied in the iconic Media City development or events such as Manchester International Festival or Future Everything. Organisations within communities have long histories of seeking to harness culture and creativity as mechanisms for socio-economic change.

Yet understanding how policies and initiatives can have tangible impacts on the development of sustainable communities is not well developed or shared. Areas of creative city boom sit cheek-by-jowl with the most deprived neighbourhoods in the UK. Similarly, fostering the socio-cultural preconditions for urban transitions is largely absent from mainstream governance and policy. Insufficient attention has been given to understanding 'how' more sustainable urban communities can be fostered in creative urban environments. Seeing culture as a fourth pillar of sustainable urban development may better address issue of participation, democracy and community cohesion and the likelihood of overcoming the strategy – implementation gap.

These two challenges embody Greater Manchester's ethos of Original Modern, as well as a research agenda around socio-technical and socio-cultural urban transformations. Through a socio-technical and socio-cultural perspective it is also possible to see how conditions and contexts are developed for alternatives, experiments and innovations to develop that may be disconnected (perhaps deliberately so) from mainstream policy and governance. Some issues – such as food – cut across these perspectives. Different values are being articulated, embodied and lived – which need to be taken seriously if the major changes required to develop more sustainable futures are to be achieved at wider societal scales. Greater reflexivity within and between actors and communities involved in sustainable urban development is also essential.

Moving Beyond the Island Mentality

Greater Manchester does not sit alone in relation to these issues. A more variable geography is emerging between cities and the national state, not only in light of the Coalition Government's wavering commitments to addressing climate change, but also in light of the new Local Enterprise Partnerships or the City Deals. Similarities and differences are apparent: on the one hand a common shift from strategic action through partnerships to more service delivery for local authorities; on the other, a gulf is also emerging in institutional capacity in different places to deliver on holistic sustainable urban development agendas. Greater Manchester is seen as ahead by some, given its metropolitan history, but proud, exclusive and difficult to penetrate.

Within Greater Manchester, the current context is provoking a different set of discussions about the city-region, how it has performed in the past, mistakes made and lessons that need to be learnt. Whilst the benefits of strong leadership and public-private partnerships, under the banner of the 'entrepreneurial city' are cited by many as an asset, others are beginning to seek alternatives to the 'Manchester Way' and expressing a dissatisfaction with the boosterism and political cultures of the city-region. Commitments and incentives to engage with policy learning and sharing networks are also variable – with strong links remaining between individual cities and international networks ('global-local' or 'glocal'), bilateral relations between cities and the state ('local-national') and weaker connections between places in the UK as retrenchment and austerity reinforce more insular concerns ('local-local').

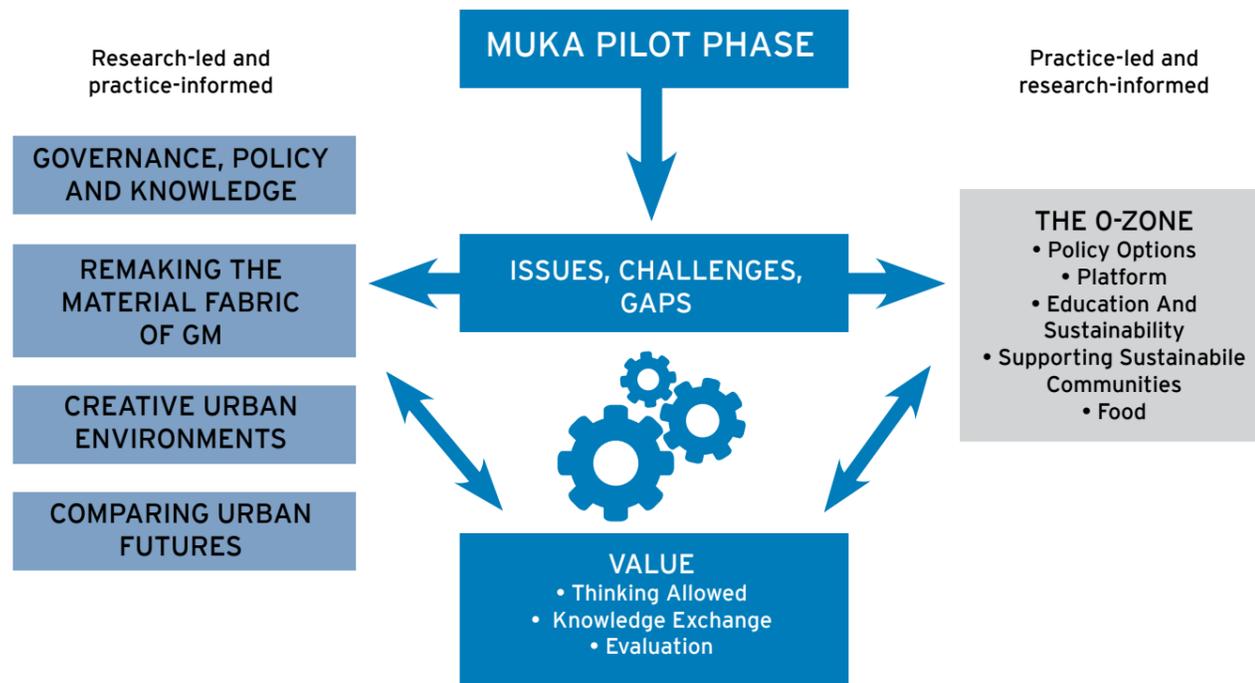### Immediate Actions and Priorities

In the meantime developments are continuing apace. Since the Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena project began in 2012, the Greater Manchester Strategy has been refreshed; the Greater Manchester Climate Change Strategy and Implementation Plan developed; the Greater Manchester Poverty Commission has reported; Salford City Council has announced its Salford Cooperative Council Commission under the new mayor….the list goes on.

On the ground new initiatives and actions are being developed all the time. Sometimes these deliver against policy objectives. Sometimes they challenge them.

A key challenge is that action doesn't wait. The imperative is to move fast, not only because of political terms of office, or financial years, but because the challenges are immediate and pressing. By some measures, such as staying within 3% rise in global temperature, we have already failed. We need to learn and reflect, but decisions are being made daily which affect the future of Greater Manchester.

A Programme of Work, 2013-2015

The next phase of work for the GM LIP addresses these issues and challenges in creating a sustainable GM. It has two priorities: (1) examining and developing the evidence base; and (2) enabling the development of options and real-time responses to the issues and challenges of sustainable urban development in GM. Examination of the evidence will improve our understanding of what works, why, how, who is involved and with what effects and help us to develop a stronger evidence base for action.

MUKA PILOT PHASE

Research-led and practice-informed

Practice-led and research-informed

GOVERNANCE, POLICY AND KNOWLEDGE

REMAKING THE MATERIAL FABRIC OF GM

CREATIVE URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

COMPARING URBAN FUTURES

ISSUES, CHALLENGES, GAPS

THE O-ZONE
• Policy Options
• Platform
• Education And Sustainability
• Supporting Sustainable Communities
• Food

VALUE
• Thinking Allowed
• Knowledge Exchange
• Evaluation

The first four projects are concerned with understanding what works, why, how, who is involved and with what effects, and developing a stronger evidence base for action. Governance, Knowledge and Policy for Sustainability seeks to understand the policy-making process and encourage better dialogue between GM policy-makers and the people engaged on the ground in creating a sustainable GM, giving voice to both mainstream and alternative approaches to sustainability. Remaking the Material Fabric of GM seeks to develop a broader understanding of retrofitting. It will explore questions such as: Who is involved? What is being done? Why? How? How is it promoting the sustainable urban

development agenda? Creative Urban Environments explores the 'creative city' – who is involved, what is being done, why, how and to what effect – and examines how creativity could contribute to the development of a sustainable or 'low carbon culture' in GM. Comparing Urban Futures provides a space for researchers, practitioners, business and policy-makers to meet and learn from developments in five other British cities. Together, these projects will contribute to a database of around 75 examples of alternative forms of sustainable urbanism in Greater Manchester.

One of our central projects for 2013-2015 will be the O-Zone. Here we are developing a range of practice-led projects to work across academic-policy boundaries to test options, build on opportunities and develop activities for a more sustainable Greater Manchester. The purpose of O-Zone is to enable real-time responses to the challenges of sustainability in Greater Manchester.

This will involve:

• developing options for addressing identified challenges with the Low Carbon Hub/AGMA.
• launching and developing a digital portal for sustainability with Creative Concern.
• strengthening the contribution of universities to sustainability in the city-region.
• building capacity for the development of sustainable communities with Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations.

Values and Learning in Urban Environments looks at how GM can learn from our research and responses so that it supports the development of a sustainable future. This will involve a series of activities designed to address questions about our values and our collective memories – what are they? Whose values do our actions represent? Do we need to change those actions? What are the issues and challenges and gaps for research and practice next year?

Shaping the Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform

The GM LIP is hosted by the SURF Centre at the University of Salford. A Greater Manchester Partners' group brings together the key partners of the platform and specific Project Operations Groups take the projects forward. We also have a GM-wide network with whom we will engage through the digital portal – PLATFORM. The Mistra Urban Futures website is also being revamped so we look forward to making the most of social media to better communicate and influence the debate on sustainability in GM.

Conceptually, the Greater Manchester LIP has been developed as an 'intermediary' space, supporting the possibility for different partners to reflect on their practices, be challenged by new perspectives and learn from the rich, but currently disconnected, sets of activities within the city-region. Whilst knowledge has transformative potential, it requires active translation in order to be relevant to different groups. With a purpose to contribute to a more integrated, systemic transition and support learning and knowledge exchange between groups, the GM LIP aims to give greater visibility and voice to the range of alternatives, perspectives and possibilities in the city-region, identify potential niches and make connections between and within organisational and community contexts.

We need the integration of existing knowledge as much as new knowledge and need to reclaim the right to the city for those that work and live within it. The Mistra Urban Futures centre as a whole started with the idea that existing ways of working are not sustainable. That being the case, new forms of living, working, thinking and doing are needed. We need to look at alternative forms of sustainable urbanism. The means of getting there need to be constructed jointly and work towards commonly agreed goals. The research underpinning the GM LIP draws on urban theory, forms of urban governance, community transitions and the dilemmas that arise between critique and engagement in the process.

The role of research-practice platforms such as the GM LIP is not to dictate new pathways, but to suggest new directions through raising the visibility of different possibilities. There is a huge appetite for collaborative working and many worthy ideas. The GM LIP hopes to engage with formal and informal, policy and community interests, share learning and seek to identify activities and projects that can be upscaled, re-scaled or replicated across the city-region.

ANNEX 1
Partners on the Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform, 2012

Name	Title	Organisation	Primary involvement in...
Abbott, Carl	Professor	Salford, University of	Universities and Sustainable Cities/Integrated Actions
Anderson, Emma	Partnership Manager	Manchester Art Gallery / Manchester Partnership	Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Andrews, Nadine	PhD Student / Consultant	Lancaster University / Culture Probe	Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Atherton, Mark	Director of GM Environment Commission	Association of Greater Manchester Authorities	Governance, Policy and Knowledge for Sustainability
Baldwinson, Tony	Project Manager, Centre for Construction Innovation	Salford, University of	Universities and Sustainable Cities/Integrated Actions
Batton, Carol	Poet	Independent	Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Borkin, Simon	Consultant	Freelance	Sustainable Communities
Boylan, Eamonn	Chief Executive	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	Perspectives
Burton, Laura	Teacher	Temple Primary School	Sustainable Stories:Schools
Burton, Mark	Academic Activist	Steady State Manchester	Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Carver, Linda	Campaigner	Save Ancoats Dispensary Campaign	Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Connor, Steve	Chief Executive (and Chair)	Creative Concern/ Manchester A Certain Future	Digital Governance and Sustainability / Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Cunio, Steve	Community Researcher	-	Sustainable Communities/Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Danger, Lucy	Executive Director	EMERGE Recycling	Perspectives
Daniel, Ruth	Director	Un-convention	Sustainable Stories :Exhibition
Davies, Martin	Filmmaker	Independent	Sustainable Stories:Schools
Davies, Sarah	Environment Team	Association of Greater Manchester Authorities	Governance, Policy and Knowledge for Sustainability
Downey, Caroline	Executive Director	MERCi (Manchester Environmental Resource Centre Initiative)	Perspectives
Ellen, Debbie	Associate	EMERGE	Perspectives
Hall, Martin	Vice Chancellor	Salford, University of	Ambassador/Speaker
Halton, Martin	Consultant on Social Research	Independent	Sustainable Communities
Haywood, Paul	Professor	Salford, University of	Perspectives
Hildreth, Paul	Expert on Local Economic Development	Independent	Networking the Greater Manchester LIP

Name	Title	Organisation	Primary involvement in...
Hodson, Mike	Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures	Salford, University of	Deputy Director of GM LIP/ Cross-cutting Research
Hoyland, Lisa	Environment Team	Association of Greater Manchester Authorities	Governance, Policy and Knowledge for Sustainability
Hughes, John	Reverend	St John's Sunshine	Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Jam, Chris	Poet	Independent	Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Karvonen, Andy	Research Fellow / Lecturer in Architecture and Urbanism	Manchester, University of	Universities and Sustainable Cities
Leaston, Lorna	General Manager	Seedley and Langworthy Development Trust	Sustainable Communities
Leese, Richard	Leader	Manchester City Council	Perspectives
Locke, Raichael	Coordinator	Manchester Environmental Education Network	Sustainable Stories:Schools
Lucas, Sian	Community Researcher	-	Sustainable Communities/ Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
May, Tim	Director, Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures	Salford, University of	Senior Advisor
Mbololo, Emily	Chair	Women of the World	Sustainable Communities/ Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
McClarnan, Kerenza	Director	Buddleia	Sustainable Stories:Schools:Exhibition
McKay, Lindsay	Marketing	Creative Concern	Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Menzies, Walter	Sustainability Consultant	Freelance	Perspectives
Milburn, Roger	Director	Ove Arup & Partners	Perspectives
Nevell, Mike	Head of Centre for Applied Archaeology	Salford, University of	Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Nkurunziza, Wilson	Chair	Salford Refugee and Asylum Seekers Forum	Sustainable Communities/ Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Perry, Beth	Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures	Salford, University of	Director of GM LIP/ Cross-cutting Research
Rowe, Matthew	Co-Director	Envirolution	Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Sanderson, Rob	Design	Creative Concern	Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Seagrave, Helen	Sustainable Growth Advisor ENWORKS	Association of Greater Manchester Authorities	Governance, Policy and Knowledge for Sustainability

ANNEX 1 Cont...

Name	Title	Organisation	Primary involvement in...
Selby, Ann	Chief Executive	Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and Merseyside; & GM Environment Commissioner	Panellist
Simpson, Vicky	Administrator, Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures	Salford, University of	Platform Administration
Smith, Jake	Digital Project Manager	Creative Concern	Digital Governance and Sustainability/ Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Stone, Gerry	Chair	Seedley and Langworthy Development Trust	Sustainable Communities
Surtees, Alison	Chief Executive	Creative Industries in Salford (CRIS)	Perspectives
Walsh, Vincent	Chief Executive	Biospheric Foundation	Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Walters, Anne	Community Activist	-	Sustainable Communities/Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Wharton, Alex	Research Assistant, Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures	Salford, University of	Mistra Urban Futures GM LIP Researcher
Whinnom, Alex	Chief Executive	Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations	Perspectives
Whitehead, Sarah	Community Activist	Weaste Area Forum	Sustainable Communities/Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
Woodvine, Amanda	Coordinator	Didsbury's Dinners	Sustainable Stories:Exhibition
10 Pupils	The Eco-Schools Team	Temple Primary School	Sustainable Stories:Schools

Note: Excludes participants/attendees/interviewees at seminars and workshops

ANNEX 2 - Presentations & Publications

Overview
The following list has been compiled to illustrate the presentations and publications from the Greater Manchester LIP in 2012.

Degrees of Attribution to Mistra Urban Futures

Category A	These are direct outputs of research funded by Mistra Urban Futures
Category B	These are outputs that are part-funded by and/or explicitly reference Mistra Urban Futures
Category C	These are relevant outputs from SURF and partners that inform and enhance the work of the Greater Manchester LIP and contribute to the overall Fair, Green, Dense, Modes and Tools work of the UF-Arena.

Types of Outputs
There are multiple outputs – all detailed below. They are: research and activity reports; event summaries; books; book chapters; journal articles; publications in media for policy and practitioner press; presentations to academic audiences and presentations to mixed policy, business and community audiences. In addition, the Greater Manchester LIP produces non-written outputs deploying different media: for example, exhibitions; websites; photography/film.

Working Papers
GM LIP (2012) 'Governance Policy and Knowledge for Sustainability in Greater Manchester: Phase One Report'. Atherton, M., Hodson, M. and Perry, B. Mistra Urban Futures Greater Manchester Working Paper, Number 1. [A]

GM LIP (2012) 'Perspectives: How Can Sustainability Be Understood in Greater Manchester'. Boylan, E., Downey, C., Ellen, D. & Danger, L., Haywood, P., Leese, R., Menzies, W., Milburn, R., Surtees, A. and Whinnom, A., with Hodson, M. and Perry, B. Mistra Urban Futures Greater Manchester Working Paper, Number 2. [A]

GM LIP (2012) 'Sustainable Communities'. Halton, M., Perry, B. and Wharton, A. Mistra Urban Futures Greater Manchester Working Paper, Number 3. [A]

GM LIP (2012) 'Sustainable Stories'. Cunio, S., Lucas, S., Mmbololo, E., Nkurunziza, W., Whitehead, S. and Winton, A. with Perry, B. and Wharton, A. Mistra Urban Futures Greater Manchester Working Paper, Number 4. [A]

GM LIP (2012) 'Universities and Sustainable Cities'. Perry, B., May, T., Karvonen, A., Baldwinson, T. and Abbott, C. Mistra Urban Futures Greater Manchester Working Paper, Number 5.[A] GM LIP (2012) 'Transmission'. Creative Concern, with SURF.

Mistra Urban Futures Greater Manchester Working Paper, Number 6. [A]

GM LIP (2012) 'Creative Production and Practices in Urban Sustainability: Shifting Paradigms for Fair, Green and Dense Cities? Poster. Perry, B. Mistra Urban Futures Greater Manchester Working Paper, Number 7. [A]

GM LIP (2012) 'Comparing Urban Futures: Spatial Networking for Sustainable Urban Development'. Hildreth, P. Mistra Urban Futures Greater Manchester Working Paper, Number 8. [A]

GM LIP (2012) 'Integrated Actions'. Wharton, A., Baldwinson, T. and Perry, B. Mistra Urban Futures Greater Manchester Working Paper, Number 9. [A]

GM LIP (2012) 'Impact Assessment'. Perry, B. and Wharton, A. Mistra Urban Futures Greater Manchester Working Paper, Number 10. [A]

GM LIP (2013) 'Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena Report'. Perry, B., Wharton, A. and Hodson, M. and May, T. Mistra Urban Futures Greater Manchester Final Synthesis Report. [A]

Other GM LIP Outputs

GM LIP (2012) 'Sustainable Stories'. Exhibition Handout. Written by Perry, B. Produced by Creative Concern. [A]

GM LIP (2012) Short film comprising Ecoschool's animation, interview materials and shots from exhibition. As part of Sustainable Stories exhibition. [A]

GM LIP (2012) Sustainable Stories Exhibition Content – Boards and Posters. [A]

Ecoschools Team (2012) Artwork. As part of Sustainable Stories exhibition. [A]

Event Reports

Hodson, M. and Perry, B. (2012) Low Carbon Transitions: Lessons from the Past, Implications for the Future. Report of SURF/SPRU Workshop in the ESRC Sustainability Transitions Seminar Series, with additional support from the Sustainable Practices Research Group and Mistra Urban Futures. [B]

Hodson, M., Marvin, S., and Smith, A. (2012) Discussion paper for participants in the workshop: Low Carbon Transitions: Relevant Lessons from the 1970s Crisis? [B]

Perry, B. and Buchs, M. (2012) Methodological Challenges of Researching Climate Change at Multiple Levels. Report of BSA Workshop on Methodological Challenges, Southampton. [B]

Presentations

Perry, B. (2012) 'An English Affair: Contributions to the Regional Foresight Panel'. Lille Regional Foresight Panel, Lille University, France. November 9. [B]

Perry, B. (2012) 'The GM LIP Story'. Sustainable Stories Exhibition, ESRC Festival of Social Science/Mistra Urban Futures. CUBE, Manchester. November 2. [A]

Atherton, M. (2012) 'The Governance, Policy and Knowledge Base of GM'. International Pilot Project Workshop: Policy, Governance and Knowledge. New Economy, Manchester. October 17. [A]

Karvonen, A. (2012) 'A View from Within the Universities'. Presented at Knowledge for Sustainability workshop. University of Salford. October 12. [A]

Perry, B. (2012) 'Knowledge for Sustainability'. Presented at Knowledge for Sustainability workshop. University of Salford. October 12. [A]

Hodson, M. and Marvin, S. (2012) 'The Intermediary Organisation of Low Carbon Cities: A Conceptual Framework and Comparative Analysis'. Sustainable Transitions in Urban Waste Workshop. University of Manchester. September 28. [B]

May, T. (2012) 'V.A.L.U.E (Values and Learning in Urban Environments: Possibilities and Practice'. 56th International Federation for Housing and Planning Conference. Gothenburg, Sweden. September 16-19. [A]

DeLaurentis, C., Hodson, M., Marvin, S. and Thompson, M. (2012) 'Retrofit in Greater Manchester and Cardiff: Governing to Transform or to Ungovern?' International Comparative Urban Retrofit Workshop: Purpose, Politics and Practices. Manchester. September 13-14. [B]

Eames, M., Dixon, T., May, T. and Hunt, M. (2012) 'Key Challenges in Urban Retrofitting to 2050: Towards an Intergrated Socio-Technical Perspective'. International Urban Retrofit Workshop: Theories and Concepts, Dynamics and Practices, Politics and Implications. Manchester. September 13-14. [B]

Perry, B. (2012) 'The Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform'. Mistra Urban Futures meeting, World Urban Forum. Naples, Italy. September 5. [A]

Connor, S. (2012) 'Transmission'. Stakeholder Workshop. Creative Concern, Manchester. July 18. [A]

Connor, S. (2012) 'A Digital Platform for GM'. GM Environment Commission. Oldham MBC. July 17. [A]

Halton, M. (2012) 'SALT's Engagement with Community Researchers'. Involving Communities in Research: Sharing Practices & Learning Lessons. St. Sebastien Community Centre, Salford. June 29. [A]

Perry, B. (2012) 'Mistra Urban Futures: Creating Sustainable Cities'. Involving Communities in Research: Sharing Practices, Learning Lessons. St Sebastian Community Centre, Salford. June 29. [A]

Perry, B. and Hodson, M. (2012) 'The Multi-level Governance of Climate Change: Continuity and Change in Low Carbon Greater Manchester'. International Sustainable Development Research Conference. Hull. June 24-26. [A]

Perry, B. and May. T. (2012) 'Conceptualising Sustainable Urban Development'. International Sustainable Development Research Conference. Hull. June 24-26. [A]

Connor, S. (2012) 'A Digital Platform for GM'. AGMA Chief Officers Group. Oldham MBC. June 20. [A]

Hodson, M. (2012) 'Politics, Governing and the Transition to a Low Carbon Nation?' Past, Present and Prospective Energy Transitions Seminar Series. Low Carbon Research Institute, Cardiff. May 22. [B]

Perry, B. (2012) 'Opportunities, challenges and approaches to researching the sustainable city: local interaction platforms as conceptual and methodological innovation?' BSA Climate Change Study Group event: Methodological Challenges of Researching Climate Change at Different Levels of Scale. University of Southampton, March 30. [A]

Hodson, M. and Marvin, S. (2012) 'Researching (and Shaping) Urban Socio-Technical Transitions'. UTaCC Workshop. Durham University. March 23. [B]

Perry, B. and Hodson, M. (2012) 'The Greater Manchester LIP'. Presentation at the International Mistra Urban Futures Meeting. Manchester. March 14-16. [A]

Hodson, M. and Marvin, S. (2012) 'Low Carbon Nation'. Future of Cities Distinguished Lecture Series 2011-2012. Saïd Business School, Oxford. March 7. [C]

May, T. (2012) 'Making Research Work: Engagement, Content and Context'. Bartlett School of Planning, UCL. London, March. [B]

Hodson, M. and Marvin, S. (2012) Urban Retrofit: Multi-level Experimentation 'In', 'On' or 'With' Cities? Cities and Climate Change Experimentation: drivers, dynamics and consequences session, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. New York City, February 24-28. [B]

May, T. (2012) 'The Challenges of Building Innovative, Smart Cities'. Plenary presentation at Smart Cities of the Future in Asia: The Opportunities for UK Business. UKTI/RBS, Media City, Salford Quays. February 14. [B]

May, T. and Hodson, M. (2012) 'Urban Retrofit: "On", "In" or "With" city-regions?' Retrofit 2012 Conference. Salford Quays, Salford. January 24-26. [A]

Perry, B. (2012) 'Bridging the Gap: Collaborative Knowledge and Expertise for Low Carbon Sustainable Cities'. UK Trade and Investment/Department for Energy and Climate Change Panel Session at Municipalika. Chennai, India. January 24. [B].

May, T. (2012) 'City Futures'. Chair and Discussant for a Cross-Sectoral Retrofit Scenario Building workshop. Royal Institute of British Architecture (RIBA). London. January. [C] Academic Publications

Book Chapters 2012
Bulkeley, H., Hodson, M., and Marvin, S. (2012) 'Emerging strategies of urban reproduction and the pursuit of low carbon cities'. In Flint, J. and Raco, M. (eds.) The Future of Sustainable Cities. Bristol: Policy Press. [C]

May, T. and Perry, B. (2012) 'Translation, Insulation and Mediation: Universities in an Age of Ambivalence'. In Benneworth, P. (ed.) Universities Engagement with Socially Excluded Communities. Dordrecht: Springer. [C]

Perry, B. (2012) 'L'universite et Territoire Angleterre : L'ecart entre L'excellence et L'utilite'. In Mespoulet, M. (ed) L'universite et Territoire. Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes. [B]

Perry, B. (2012) 'Excellence, Relevance and the Construction of Regional Science Policy: Science Frictions and Fictions in the North West of England'. In Pinheiro, R., Benneworth, P. and Jones, G. (eds), Universities and Regional Development: A Critical Assessment of Tensions and Contradictions. London: Routledge. [B]

Articles
Hodson, M. and Marvin, S. (2012) 'Mediating Low-Carbon Urban Transitions? Forms of Organisation, Knowledge and Action'. European Planning Studies, 20(3), pp.421-439.[C]

Hodson, M., Marvin, S., Robinson, B. and Swilling, M. (2012) Reshaping Urban Infrastructure: Material Flow Analysis and Transitions Analysis in an Urban Context. Journal of Industrial Ecology,16(6), pp.789-800. [C]

Other Articles
Perry, B., May, T. and Hodson, M. (2012) 'The Future of Cities'. RISE Magazine, May/June. [A]

Perry, B. and Buechs, M. (2012) 'Climate Group Mulls Research Methods'. Network, British Sociological Association, June-July. [A]

ANNEX 3 – Web Presence

Project Events

Sustainable Stories (Manchester, November 2012)

http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/cms/news/article/?id=177

http://www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/festival/festival-events/general-2012/greater-manchester.aspx

http://www.linkedin.com/osview/canvas?_ch_page_id=1&_ch_panel_id=1&_ch_app_id=30&_applicationId=2000&appParams={%22event%22%3A1148342%2C%22breadCrumb-Data%22%3A%22sustainable%20stries%22%2C%22page%22%3A%22event%22}&_owner-Id=0&completeUrlHash=5mgJ

http://www.cube.org.uk/newsitem/25

http://www.cube.org.uk/page/futureexhibitions

https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin-?A2=BSA-CLIMATE-CHANGE-STUDY-GROUP;88170cd3.1210

http://www.mistraurbanfutures.se/english/start-page/news/news/thefutureofgreatermanches-ter.5.7b47b48513b0e45ae786cf.html

http://manchestergazette.co.uk/leader-of-manches-ter-council-to-open-sustainability-exhibition/

http://eventful.com/manchester/events/search-sus-tainable-cities-/E0-001-046441754-6

http://envirolution.wordpress.com/2013/01/30/2012-a-yearly-re-view/#more-1141

http://www.bdonline.co.uk/sustainability/man-chester-seeks-to-develop-sustainable-city-blue-print/5045387.article

http://www.creativeconcern.com/news/2012/12/19/stories-sustainability

http://manchesterclimatemonthly.net/

Blogs about the Sustainable Stories Exhibition

http://www.manchester.gov.uk/blog/leadersblog/post/569

http://culturalintermediation.wordpress.com/2012/11/12/exhibitioning-cultures/

http://www.biosphericfoundation.com/blog

www.archaeologyuos.wordpress.com

Involving Communities in Research Workshop (Salford, June 2012)

http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/cms/news/article/?id=172

In Search of Sustainable Cities? Panel Debate (Manchester, March 2012)

http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/cms/news/article/?id=162

http://www.mistraurbanfutures.se/english/startpage/news/news/insearchofsustainableciti-es.5.3175b46c133e617730d800015397.html

http://www.salford.ac.uk/energy/about/news/austerity-must-not-be-barrier-to-a-sustain-able-manchester,-debate-hears

GM LIP Lunch Meeting (Salford, July 2012)

http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/cms/news/article/?id=174

Low Carbon Transitions (Salford, April 2012)

http://www.mistraurbanfutures.se/english/startpage/news/news/lowcarbontransi-tionsrelevantlessonsfromthe1970scrisis.5.5c577972135ee95b56380001325.html

http://sustainabilitytransitions.info/wp-con-tent/uploads/2011/04/DISCUSSIONPaper_All-Particpants_1970s-and-Transition.pdf

Presentations about the Project

International Sustainable Development Research Conference, Hull (May 2012)

http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/cms/news/article/?id=173

http://www2.hull.ac.uk/science/pdf/PERRY%20MAY%205a.pdf

http://www2.hull.ac.uk/science/pdf/Perry.pdf

International Urban Retrofit Workshop

http://www.retrofit2050.org.uk/internation-al-urban-retrofit-workshop-theories-and-concepts-dynamics-and-practices

http://manchesterlab.com/2012/09/09/international-urban-retrofit-workshop/

Researching Climate Change

http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/cms/news/article/?id=167

Asia Task Force Seminar on Smart Cities

http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/cms/news/article/?id=164

Green is Great - "New Urbanism"- Looking beyond Mega Cities

http://www.bbgchennai.org/images/Munciipa-lika%20UK%20speakers%20details.pdf

Active Intermediaries for Knowledge Exchange

http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/media/session2b_mayandperry.pdf

Partners' References to the Project

Association Greater Manchester
Authorities (AGMA)

http://www.agma.gov.uk/cms_media/files/03_
minutes_2012_jul_13.pdf?static=1

http://www.agma.gov.uk/cms_media/files/
mapping_of_greater_manchester_evidence_
basesep1211.pdf?static=1

Other References to the Project

Royal Town Planners Institute
(RTPI) North West

http://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/12022/
annual_report_2012.pdf

General Web-based Information about the Project

Mistra Urban Futures

http://www.mistraurbanfutures.se/english/
startpage/localplatforms.4.488d9cec137bb-
debf94800055629.html

http://www.mistraurbanfutures.se/english/
startpage/news/news/greatermanchesterlipa-
nimportantmeetingpoint.5.488d9cec137bb-
debf94800058988.html

http://www.mistraurbanfutures.se/english/
startpage/localplatforms/greatermanchester-
uk.4.488d9cec137bbdebf94800056219.html

http://www.mistraurbanfutures.
se/download/18.750e3680136adb
9f8058000699/1336727518666/Mistra+Ur-
ban+Futures+Annual+Report_Webb_Final.
pdf

http://www.mistraurbanfutures.
se/download/18.750e3680136adb
9f8058000737/1334669476355/Mistra+Ur-
ban+Futures+Annual+Report+2010.pdf

http://www.mistraurbanfutures.
se/download/18.488d9cec137bb-
debf94800054307/1339573368864/Folder+-
Fair%2C+Green%2C+Dense+Cities.pdf

http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/page/MISTRA

SURF

http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/page/Mistra_
UrbanFutures

http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/cms/news/arti-
cle/?id=170

RISE Magazine

http://www.salford.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_
file/0014/114314/RISE_may-june-2012.pdf

http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/cms/resources/
uploads/File/Pages%20from%20RISE%20(3).
pdf

CVs/Profiles of SURF Team

http://www.seek.salford.ac.uk/profiles/
MAY699.jsp

http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/page/Beth_
Perry

http://uk.linkedin.com/pub/beth-per-
ry/18/792/a00

http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/page/Alex_
Wharton

http://www.linkedin.com/profile/
view?id=188988876&trk=tab_pro

http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/page/Mike_
Hodson

The Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform is directed by the University of Salford Manchester's Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures (SURF). The University of Salford Manchester is the main co-funder of the consortium. The GM LIP is a partnership of local and city-regional stakeholders dedicated to the development of more sustainable urban futures.

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