Retrofit2050
Re-engineering the city 2020-2050:
urban foresight and transition management

EPSRC
Engineering and Physical Sciences
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Sustainability in a climate of austerity: responses from UK city-regions

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Aim today:

✓ **why focus on city-regional retrofit**

✓ **City- regional boundaries and governance**

✓ **Retrofit in GM & in Cardiff**

✓ **Comparison between the two city-regions**
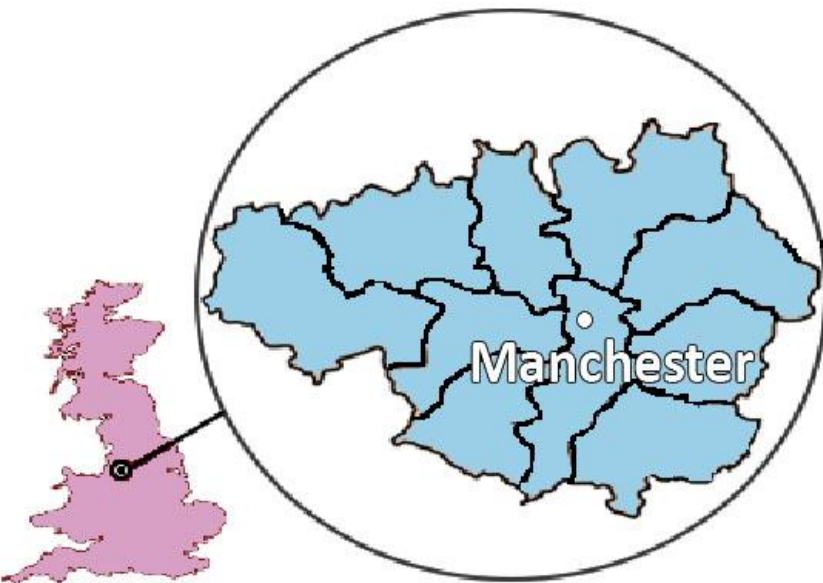
Why focus on city-regional retrofit

➢ Retrofit as incremental and disruptive improvement to the existing built environment and infrastructure through a combination of technological and social changes that is critical to the achievement of ambitious carbon reduction targets;

➢ growing population within urban centers and cities are responsible for 70% of global carbon emission and 75 % of energy consumption make cities a vital part of the retrofitting process;

➢ Increased concentration of population offers opportunities for scaling up

➢ cities as 'hub' of innovative social practice and learning for a more sustainable pattern of resource use;

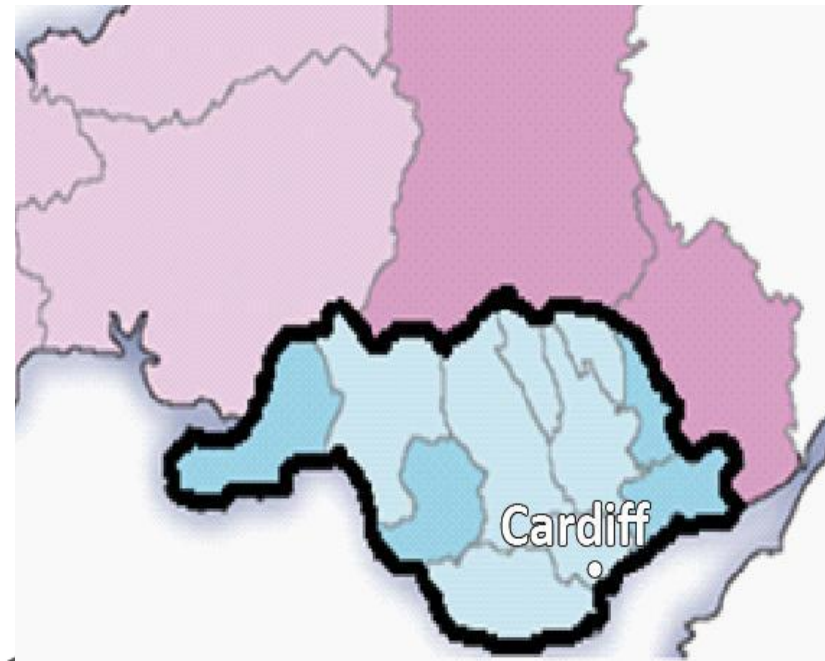➢ Pressure for city regional retrofit responses in UK

Greater Manchester

Cardiff City Region

Governance in the City-regions: Greater Manchester

➤ GM established in 1974- two tier governing arrangements

➤ GMCC abolished in 1986; 10 LAs and AGMA

➤ Statutory City regional Pilot in 2009 & GMCA in 2011

➤ Emergence of urban growth coalition

➤ Metropolitan level: political and governing power in hands of agencies and coalitions of political elites and business

➤ But no elected formal governing structures

➤ Embedded capacity to act is limited

➤ National priorities remain an important shaper

Governance in the City-regions: Cardiff City Region

- Welsh Government

  Government of Wales Act 1998 provided two statutory obligations

  - inclusive governance & equal opportunities
  - requirement to pursue Sustainable Development

- extensive partnership working

- 12 Local authorities

- Collaboration among service providers

Greater Manchester: Retrofitting ON and IN

- Dominant Urban retrofit

  - A concerted attempt to make retrofit markets

  - Positioning GM as leader in an emerging UK retrofit Market

  - GM Low Carbon Housing Retrofit

    - A framework for addressing the application of bundles of retrofit packages

    - Technology-based responses

    - How to finance it?

    - Creating standards

  - Green Deal

- Community actors

  – Embedded in the local contexts

  – But limited in their achievement

  – Range of motivations

    - Economic Development

    - Sustainability

    - Education

    - Making communities relevant again

Cardiff city-region: Retrofitting as Alternative to National Strategy

Retrofit in the city-region:

➢ climate change; low carbon economy goal; fuel poverty

Role of WG & LAs:

• **SD in Wales 'a central organising principle'**
• **LAs delivery mechanisms and support from 'below'**
• **Historical development of the city-region**
• **Poor housing quality & hard to treat homes**

➢ From planned and responsive maintenance programmes
➢ to targeted energy efficiency improvements
➢ major refurbishment programmes (e.g. *Arbed)* for retrofitting at scale

➢ *but focus on social housing and more than 440,000 SW properties in Wales*

A comparison

Understanding retrofit	Greater Manchester	Cardiff city-region
Drivers and Pressures	A means to position the city-region externally to attract investments - 'retrofit markets'	A means to deliver SD - Economic, environmental and social benefits
Governance and cultural context	Emergent metropolitan governance at GM scale: - top down up and less inclusive - limited capacity to act and shaped by national priority - mainly *aspirational* Grassroots approach: - a range of communities and embedded activities - tackle issues that are specific to the local context - can be piecemeal and isolated	Inclusive governance and partnership - SD organising principle - Governance by government - HAs/ RSLs/ LAs /private sector
Social organisation of responses	Ambitious targets and plan to retrofit at scale Driven by businesses and elite politicians - hierarchy of responses - dominant technological approach - raise funding from private and public sector 'cherry picking' Little coordination between the two styles of governance	Area-based approach: Focus is on vulnerable communities and households - 'targeting the right area first' - 'Worst performing stock' Alignment of interests Establishing links with community groups and existing organisations

Thank you

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