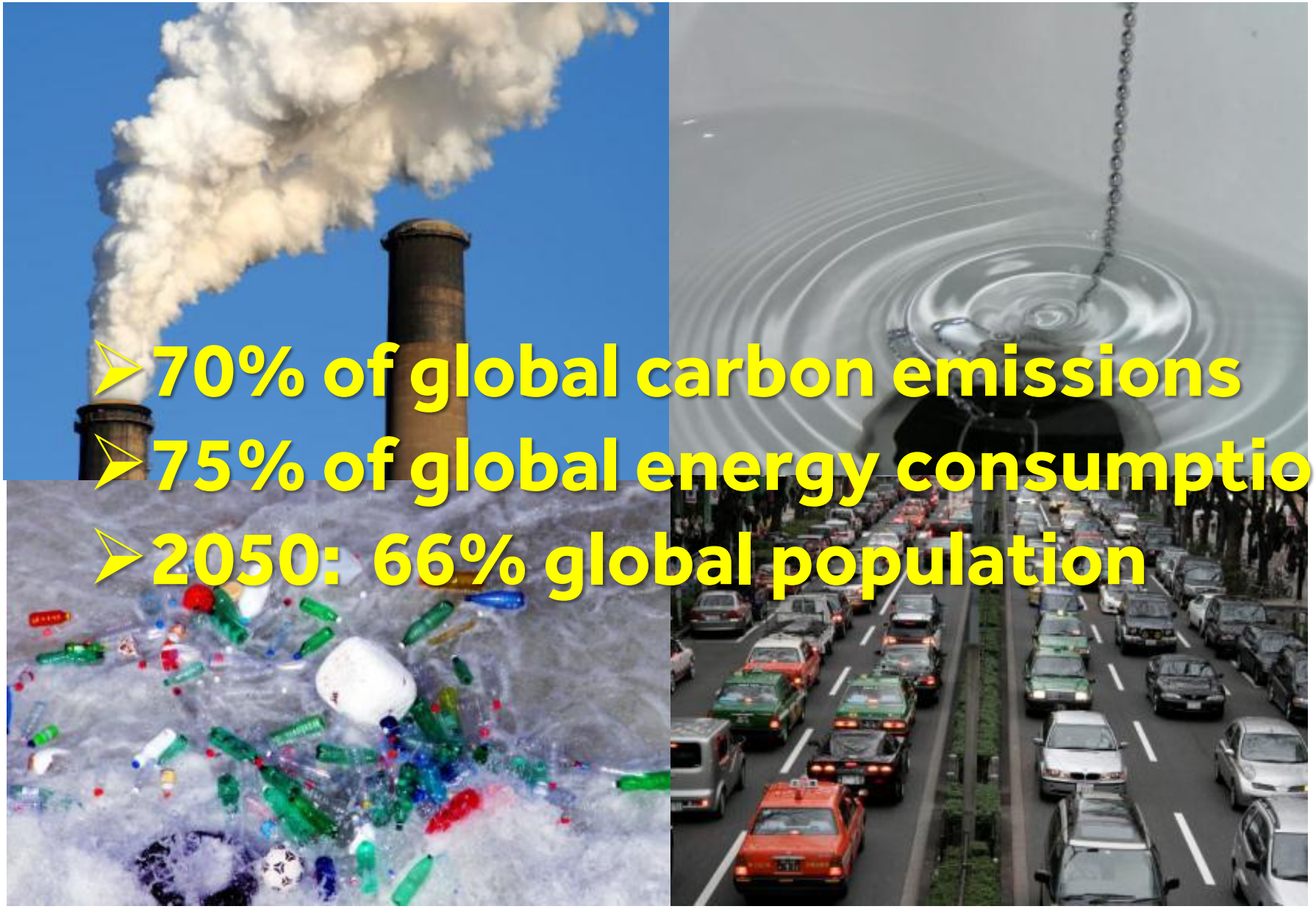
School of the Built Environment

DORCHESTER 2050: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM OTHER LONG-TERM VISIONS?

Professor Tim Dixon
(School of the Built Environment,
University of Reading)

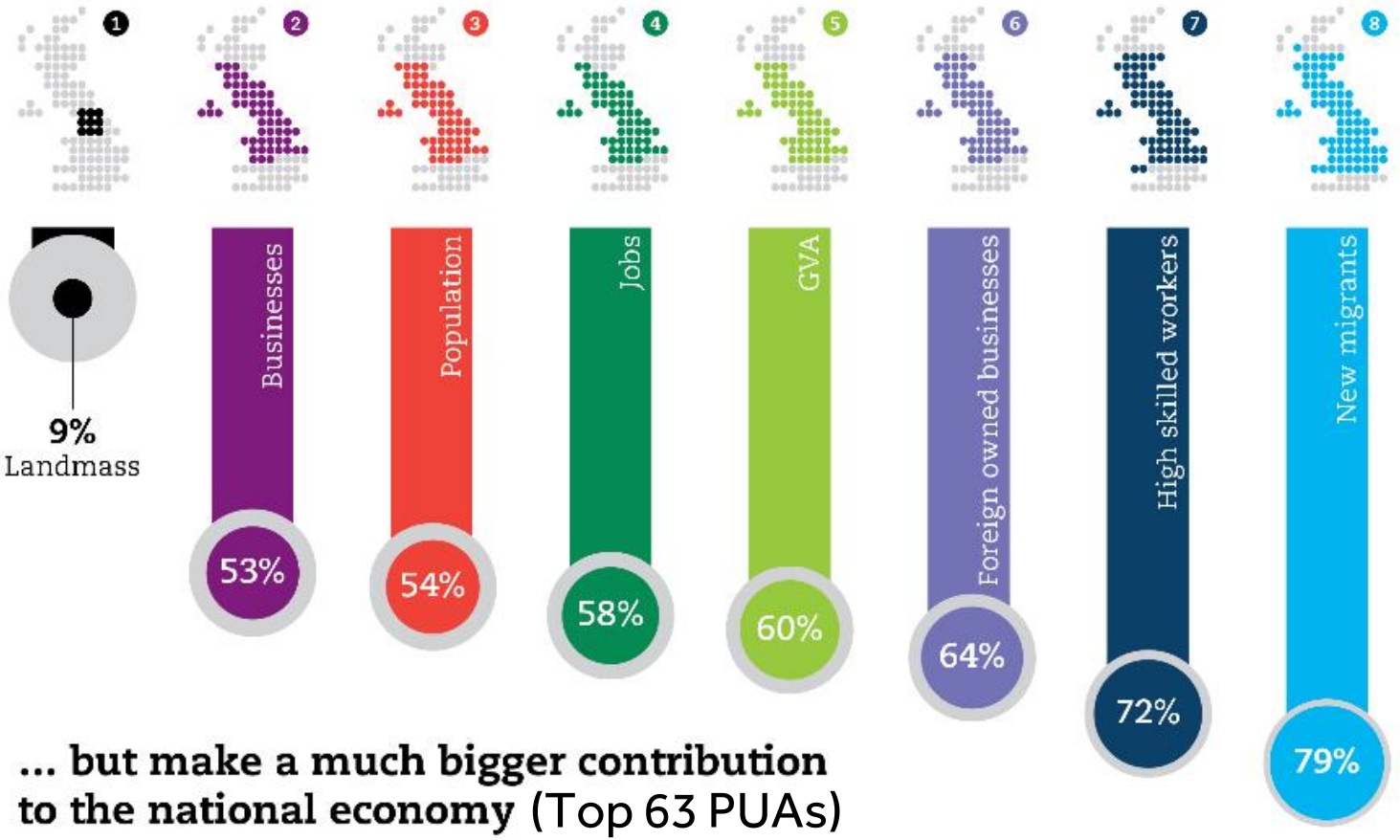
University of Reading

LOST MY JOB !
HAVE 2 CHILDREN TO FEED



- 70% of global carbon emissions
- 75% of global energy consumption
- 2050: 66% global population

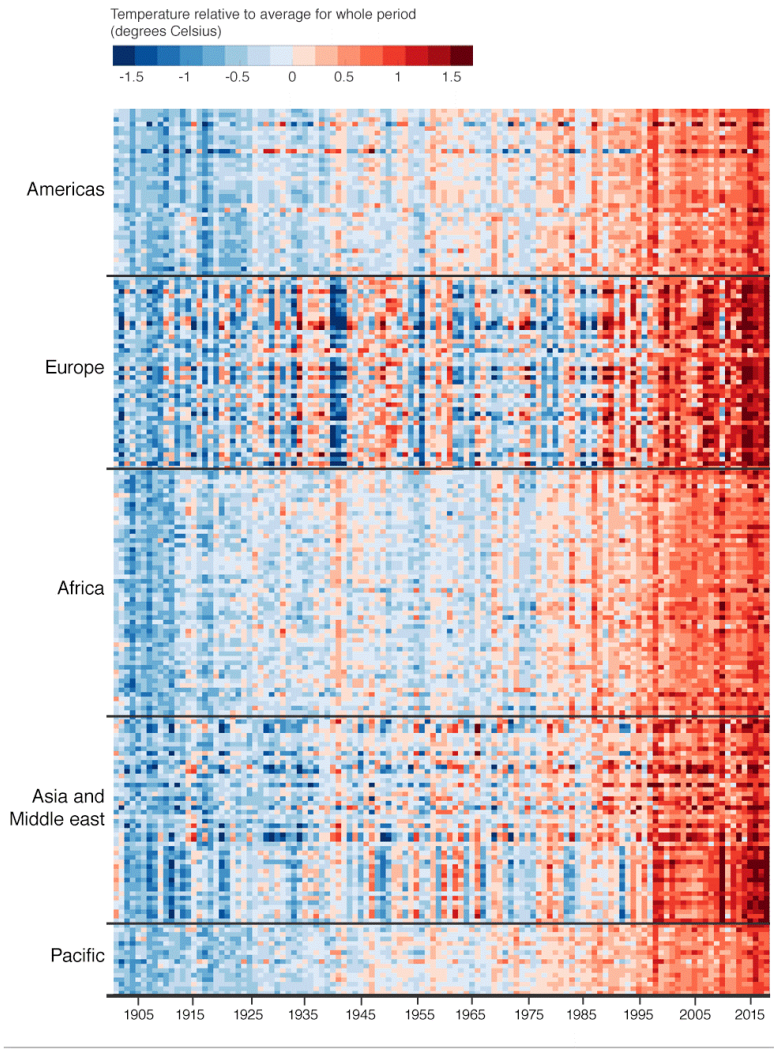
WHY ARE CITIES IMPORTANT?



... but make a much bigger contribution to the national economy (Top 63 PUAs)

Source GOS/ Centre for Cities, 2014

Temperature changes around the world (1901-2018)

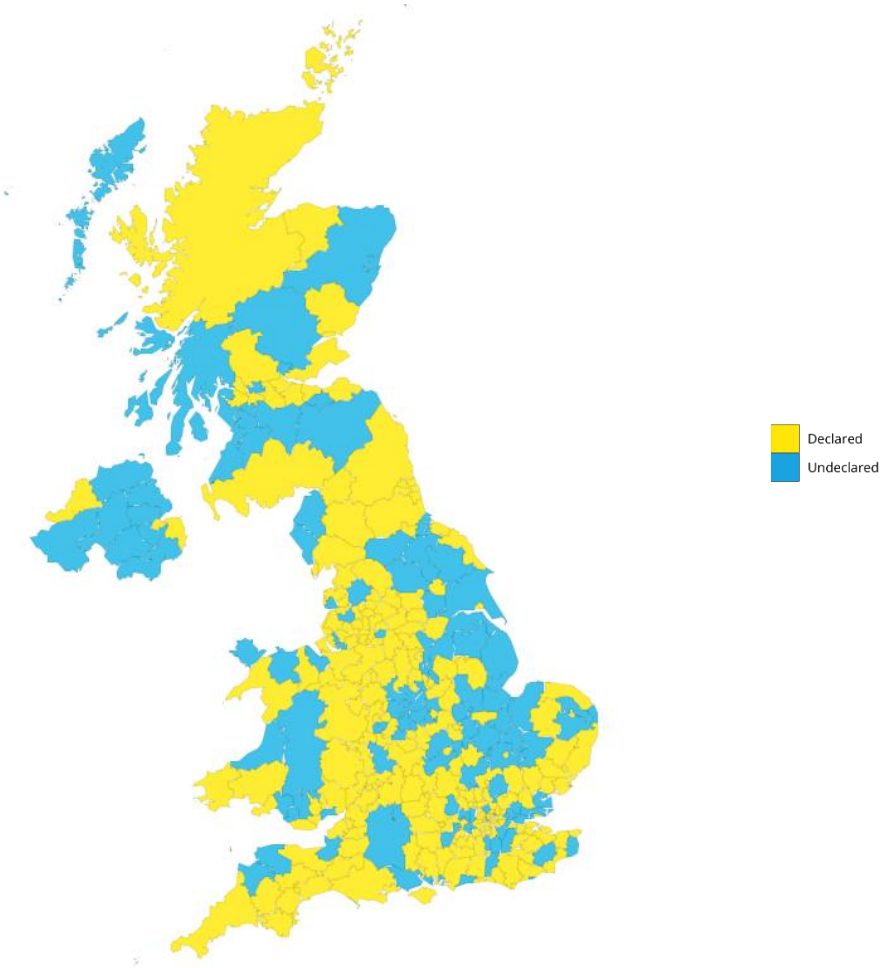


Source: Ed Hawkins/Reading University

BBC

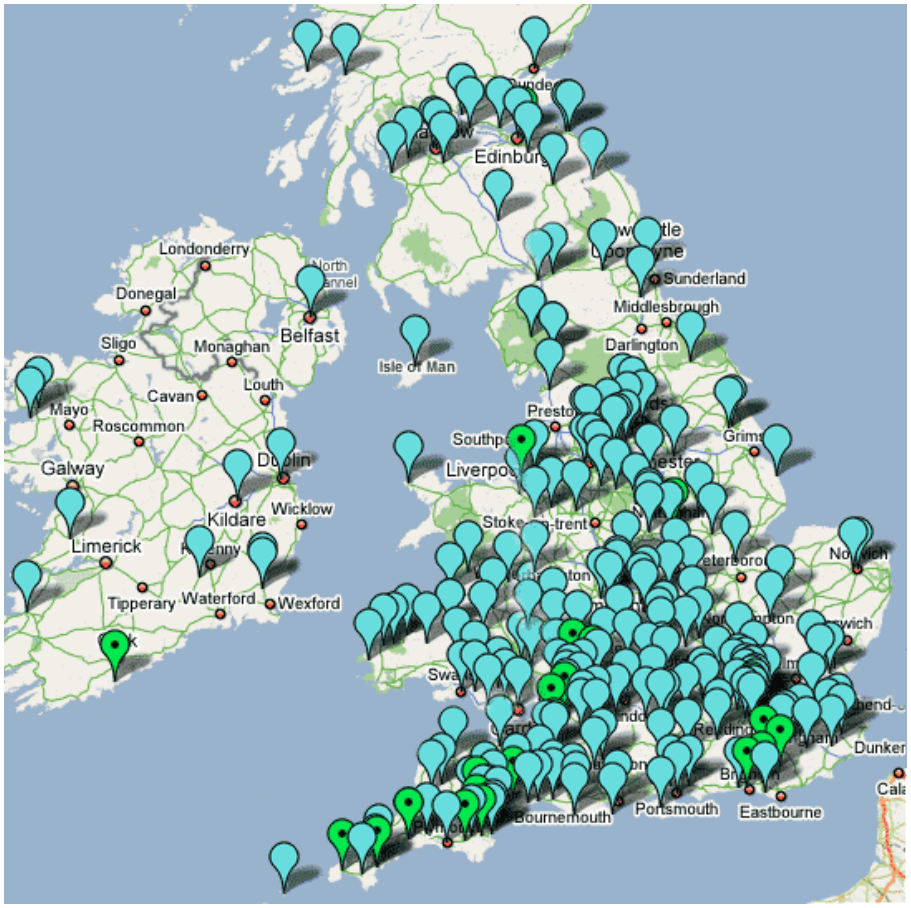
CLIMATE EMERGENCIES & TRANSITION TOWNS

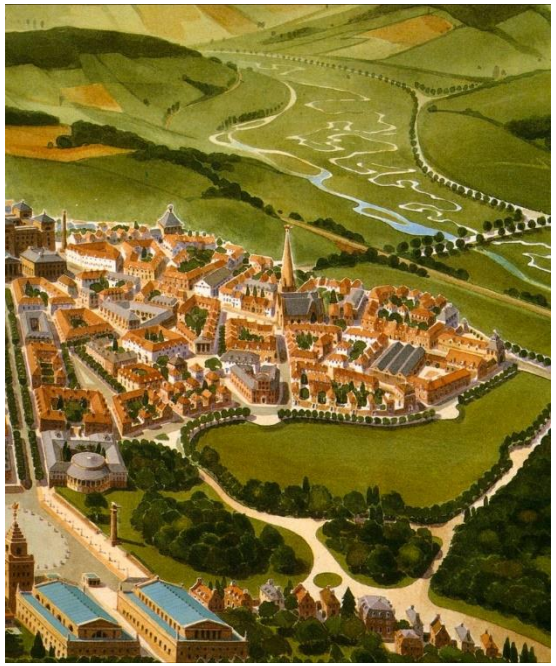
UK councils declaring a climate emergency
(as at October 2019)



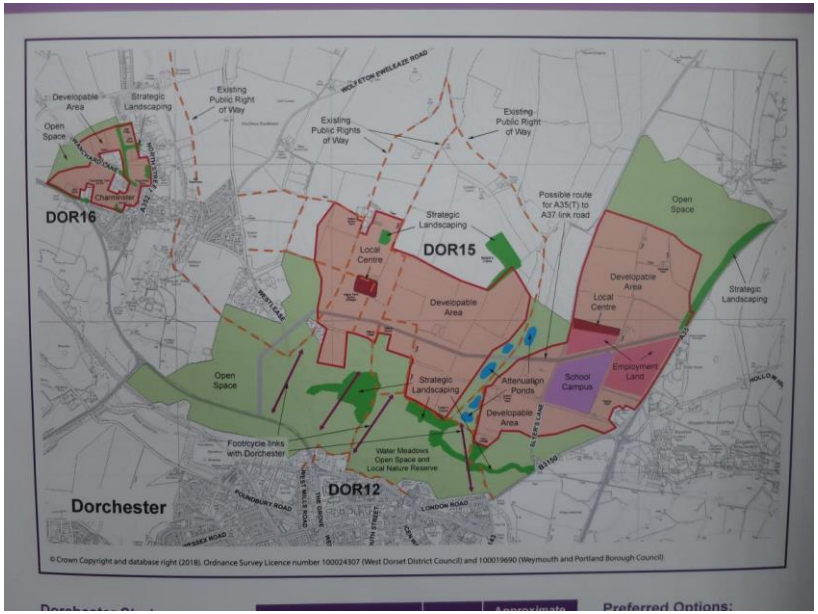
Source: https://www.trafforddatalab.io

Transition towns





TRUTH
TRUTH ACTION
TRUTH DISOBEY
ARREST CLIMATE CHANGE


Developable Area
Strategic Landscaping
Existing Public Right of Way
Open Space
Existing Public Rights of Way
Existing Public Right of Way
Charminster
DOR16
Strategic Landscaping
Local Centre
DOR15
Possible route for A35(T) to A37 link road
Open Space
Developable Area
Local Centre
Strategic Landscaping
Developable Area
Open Space
Strategic Landscaping
Attenuation Ponds
School Campus
Employment Land
Developable Area
Footicycle links with Dorchester
Water Meadows Open Space and Local Nature Reserve
DOR12
Dorchester
© Crown Copyright and database right (2018). Ordnance Survey Licence number 100024307 (West Dorset District Council) and 100019690 (Weymouth and Portland Borough Council)
Preferred Options:

CORAL

ROYAL
INSURANCE
GROUP
MAPPERS MITE
COFFEE LOUNGE
BIMBELOWS

1970s

HOTEL
The
Casterbridge
Accomm lation
TOM
BROWNS
Nails

Today

WHY DO WE NEED CITY VISIONS?

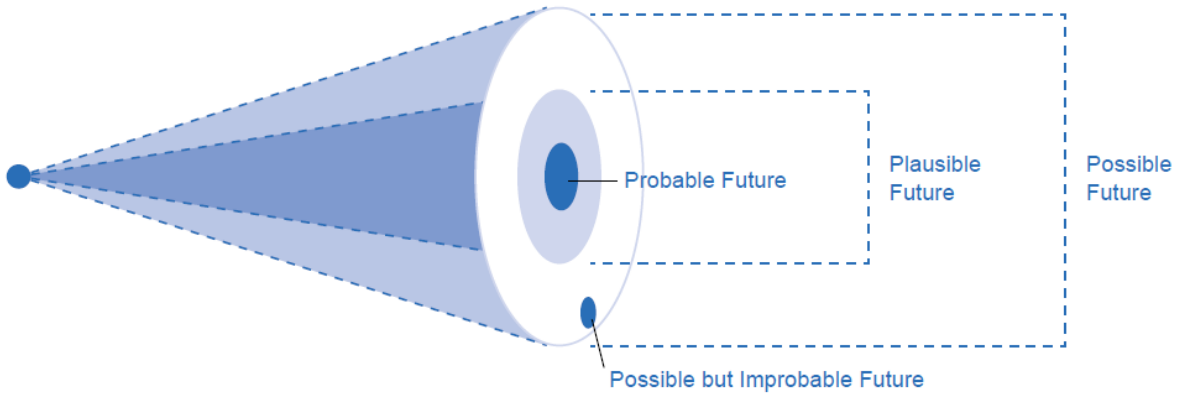
- Sense of purpose
- Vitality and belief systems
- What sort of future do we want?
- Promote discussion and debate
- Mobilise resources around desired future

URBAN (CITY) FORESIGHT

"City foresight is the science of thinking about the future of cities. It draws on diverse methods to give decision-makers comprehensive evidence about anticipated and possible future change..."

(Source: p7, GoS(2016): *City Foresight*)

Two current challenges in long-term thinking about UK city futures



CHALLENGE 1
Future beyond 25 years rarely considered for city planning

CHALLENGE 2
Non-probable, non-business-as-usual infrequently considered in city futures

BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES OF CITY VISIONING PROCESS

TANGIBLE OUTCOMES

Novel ideas

Insights into policy interrelationships

Compelling narratives to use in city branding

Early identification of risk

HIDDEN OUTCOMES

New relationships and trust

Greater buy-in for future decisions

External confidence in long-term prospects

Facilitated learning

Source: GoS, 2016

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL CITY VISION?

- Vision, strategy and action
- Integrated approach to climate change, energy, economy, transport/mobility and people
- Participatory and inclusive
- Analytically sound
- Politically viable

BRISTOL
ONE

SUSTAINIA
GUIDE TO
COPENHAGEN
2025

CITY OF
VANCOUVER
GREENEST CITY
2020 ACTION PLAN

MILTON KEYNES:
MAKING A
GREAT CITY
GREATER
SUMMARY
Milton Keynes Futures 2050 Commission
The full report is available online at
www.mkfutures2050.com

Foresight
Newcastle University
NEWCASTLE
CITY
FUTURES
2065
ANCHORING UNIVERSITIES IN URBAN
REGIONS THROUGH CITY FORESIGHT
Mark Tewdwr-Jones, John Goddard and Paul Cowie

Stockholm
VISION2030
A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE

2025 2042 2059
2026 2043 2060
2027 2044 2061
A FIFTY YEAR VISION FOR THE FUTURE –
FUTURE GLASGOW 2011 – 2061
FULL CONSULTATION REPORT

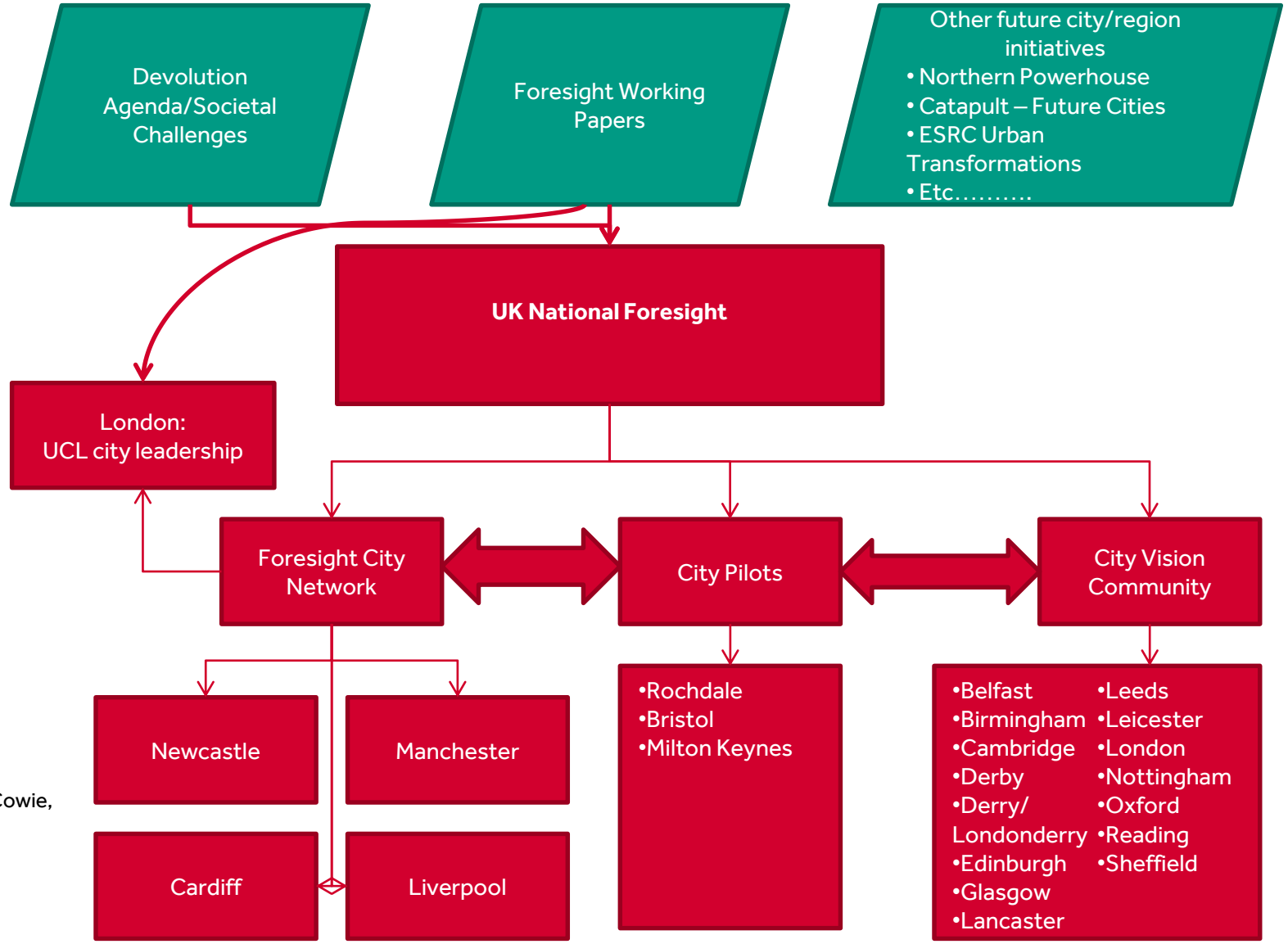
Joburg
Joburg 2040
Growth and Development Strategy

MELBOURNE
LITAN PLANNING STRATEGY

‘LOCAL’ EXAMPLES OF CITY VISIONS

- Reading 2050
- Oxford 2050
- Basingstoke Horizon 2050
- Windsor 2030

UK Government GOS Future of Cities Foresight Programme (2013-2016) (https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/future-of-cities)



Slide: Courtesy of Paul Cowie, University of Newcastle

‘QUADRUPLE HELIX’

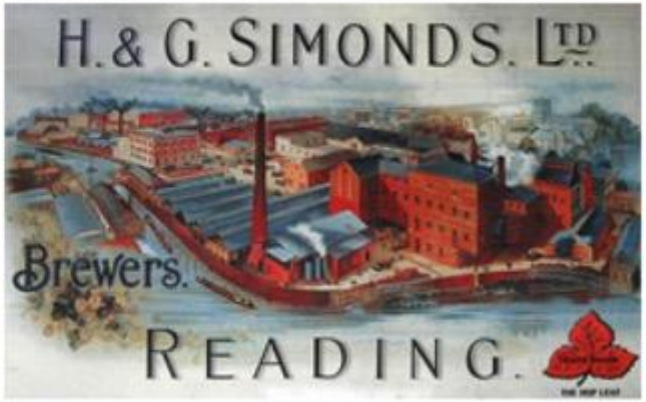
“…where government, industry, academia and civil participants work together to co-create the future and drive structural changes far beyond the scope of what any one organization or person could do alone.

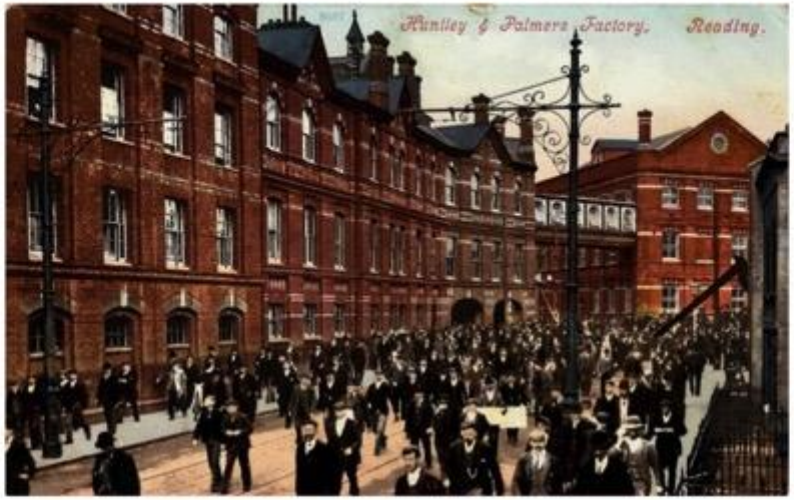
This model encompasses also user-oriented innovation models to take full advantage of ideas' cross-fertilisation leading to experimentation and prototyping in real world setting.” (EU, 2018)

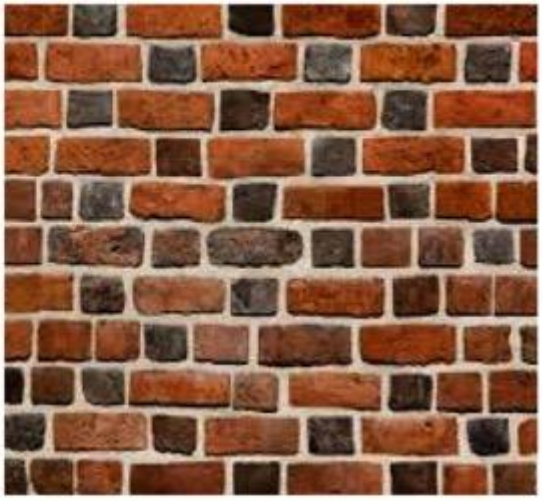
(https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/open-innovation-20)

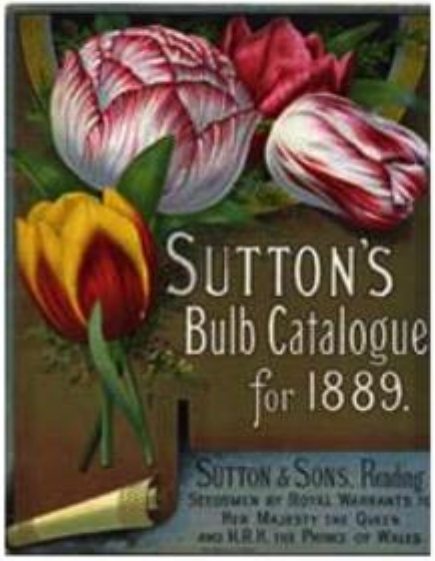
SMART AND SUSTAINABLE READING 2050

- Started in 2013
- Builds on previous work (Reading 2020 and 2030 visions)
- Environment, economy and lifestyle
  - How could Reading be smart and sustainable?
  - What would low carbon living look like?
- Physical infrastructure, growth and development
  - What will be the key urban growth areas?
  - What are Reading's key infrastructure requirements?
- Partners: Barton Willmore, University of Reading, Reading UK
- BIS Future Cities Foresight Programme (2065 City Visions)









BEER, BISCUITS, BRICKS & BULBS?

Reading UK 2050

1960s and 1970s

"Reading is Dragsville" (Reading Chronicle, 1968)

TODAY...AND THE FUTURE?

READING TODAY

Reading is a city with so much to offer.

INVESTORS AGREE.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WORKING HERE AGREE.

THE COMMUNITY AGREES.

No. 1 in the UK for the % of people in the labour market in employment.
Centre for cities City Monitor 2014

2nd (only to London) for the concentration of SMEs.
Centre for Cities Small Business Monitor 2014.

8th best European micro city for quality of life, based on health, labour force and income.
FDI European Cities a& Regions for the Future (2014)

10th most attractive European City for foreign investment, behind only London and Cambridge.
FDI European Cities & Regions for the Future (2014)

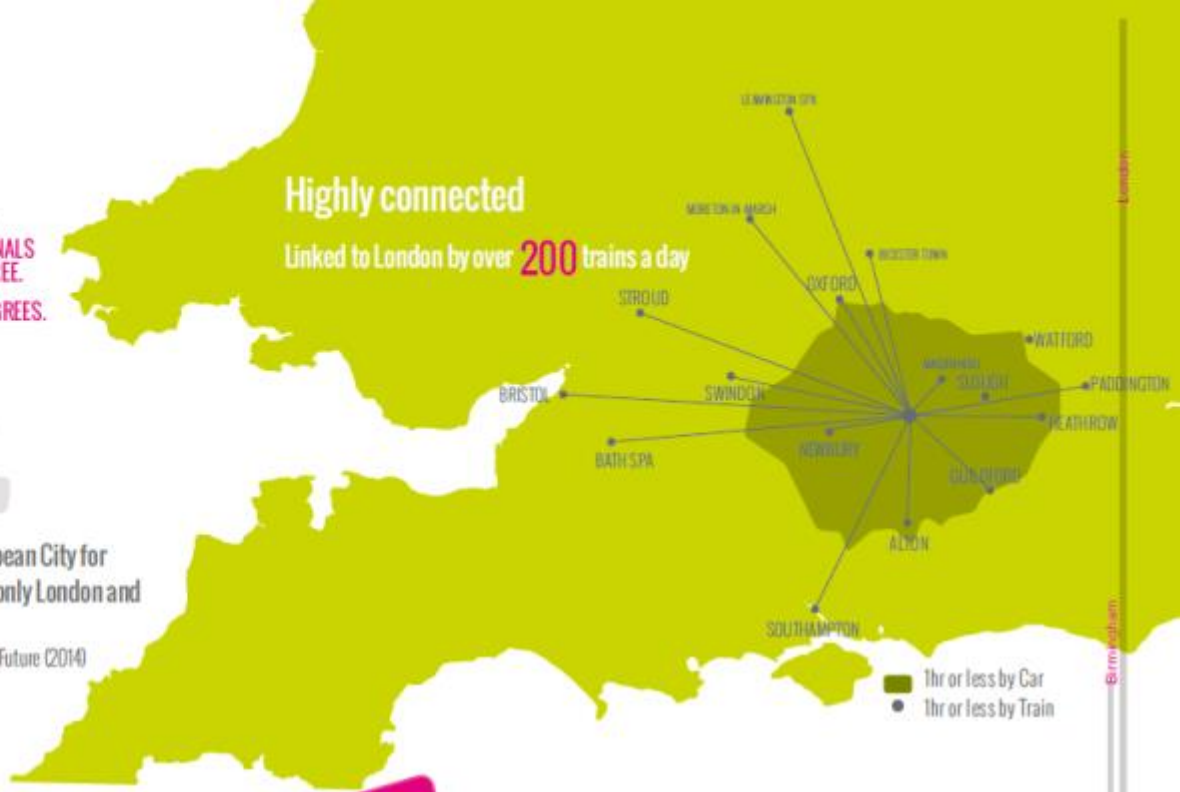
20% of University of Reading graduates remain in the Reading area after graduation.
Reading UK CIC

5th highest start up rate in the UK and is in the top 10 for patents granted.
Centre for Cities

2nd most dynamic economy after Cambridge.
Grant Thornton's 'Where growth happens' report

Highly connected

Linked to London by over **200** trains a day

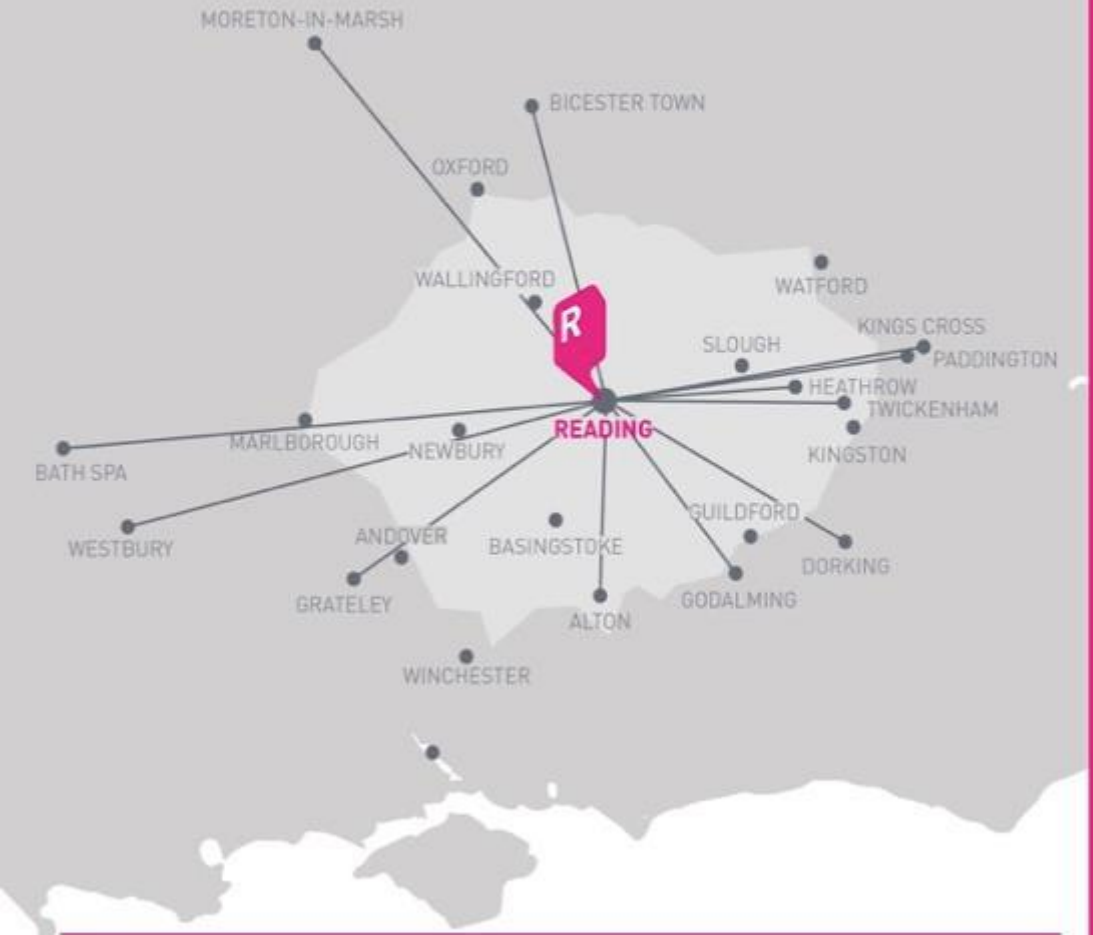


150 languages are spoken across the Borough demonstrating the town's rich cultural diversity..
Reading Borough Council, 2010

Reading: Urban Challenges

- **Challenges (including)? – focus on medium term challenges**
  - Economic growth
  - Resilience and prosperity
  - Transport/infrastructure
  - Housing/population growth
  - ‘Narrowing the gaps’
  - Urban design and culture/heritage (Reading 2030 Culture and Heritage Strategy)
  - Moving to zero carbon by 2030 in context of climate change (Reading Climate Change Strategy)

READING (GREATER READING)



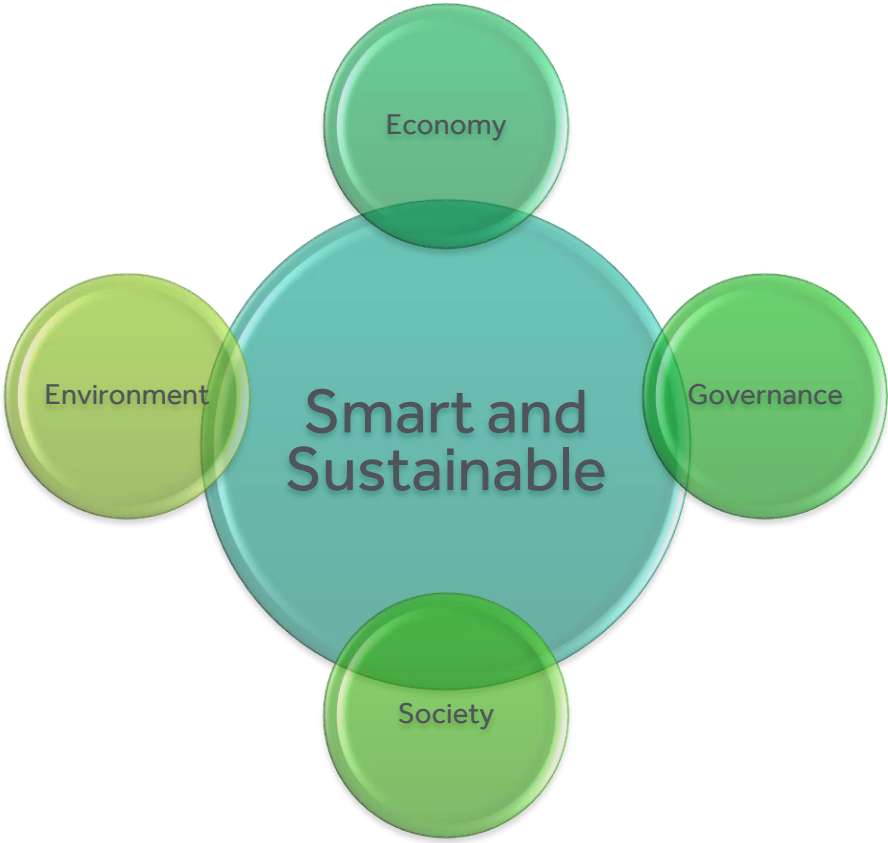
- Geographic focus & varying definitions
- Reading/Wokingham Urban Area (plus Arborfield, Woodley, Theale, Crowthorne, & Earley)
- Population: 318,014 (2011)

Reading UK 2050

SMART & SUSTAINABLE THINKING?

A ‘smart & sustainable’ city is a city that leverages the benefits of ICT infrastructure to:

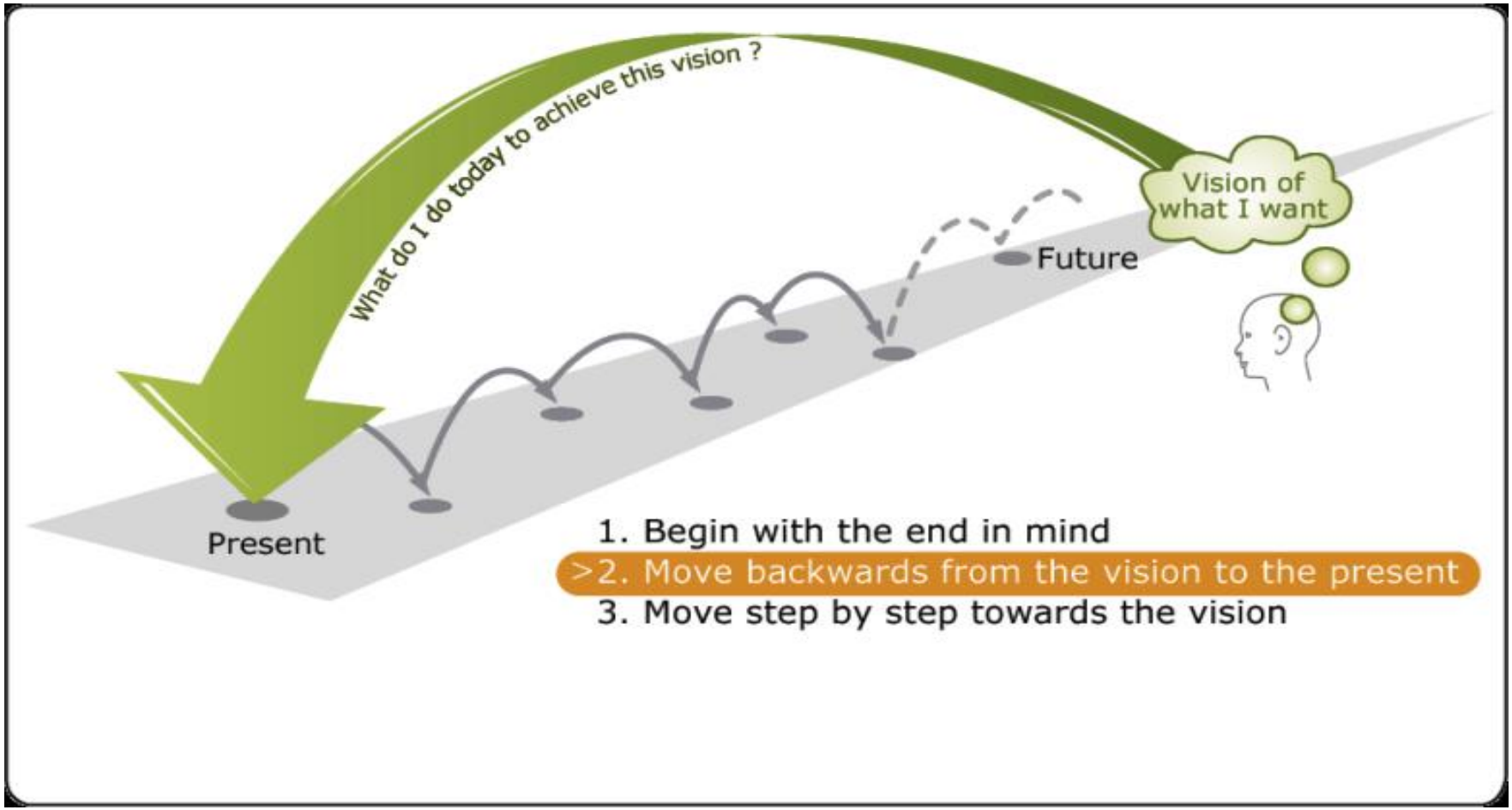
- Improve the quality of life of its citizens
- Ensure tangible economic growth for its citizens
- Improve the well-being of its citizens
- Establish an environmentally responsible and sustainable approach to development
- Streamline and improve the physical infrastructure
- Reinforce resilience to natural and man-made disasters
- Underpin effective and well-balanced regulatory, compliance and governance mechanisms



Source: ITU, 2014

HOW DID WE DEVELOP THE VISION?

BACKCASTING



'Generating a desirable future, and then looking backwards from that future to the present in order to strategise and to plan how it could be achieved' (Vergragt & Quist, 2011)

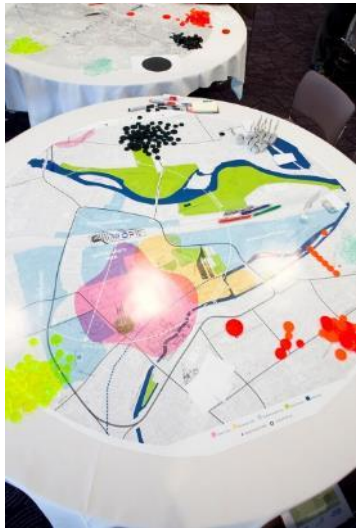
‘…DRIVEN BY THOSE WHO LIVE, WORK AND SHAPE OUR CITY…’

Since then we have engaged with a broad spectrum of people and businesses, to develop and test ideas, consulting over 21,000 members of the local community, some 350 local business representatives and hosting 15 events to discuss and shape the opportunities for Reading.

21,000 MEMBERS OF THE **LOCAL COMMUNITY**

15 EVENTS

350 LOCAL **BUSINESSES**



A PUBLIC CONSULTATION

March 2016

Step into Reading 2050

- A campaign to engage the public in the 2050 project was launched as part of Reading's Year of Culture. A Reading Bus based exhibition and supporting campaign engaged over 21000 in total including over 2000 people face to face.
- Find out more

Apr 2016

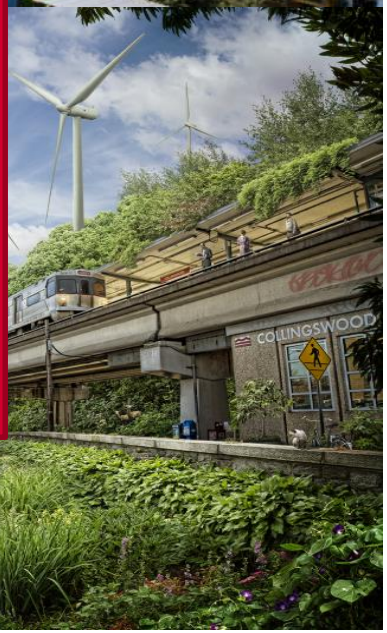
Engaging young people in Reading 2050 through Reading Year of Culture

WHAT DOES THE VISION LOOK LIKE?

'The new Reading 2050 Vision will help us establish ourselves as an internationally-recognised and economically successful city region.

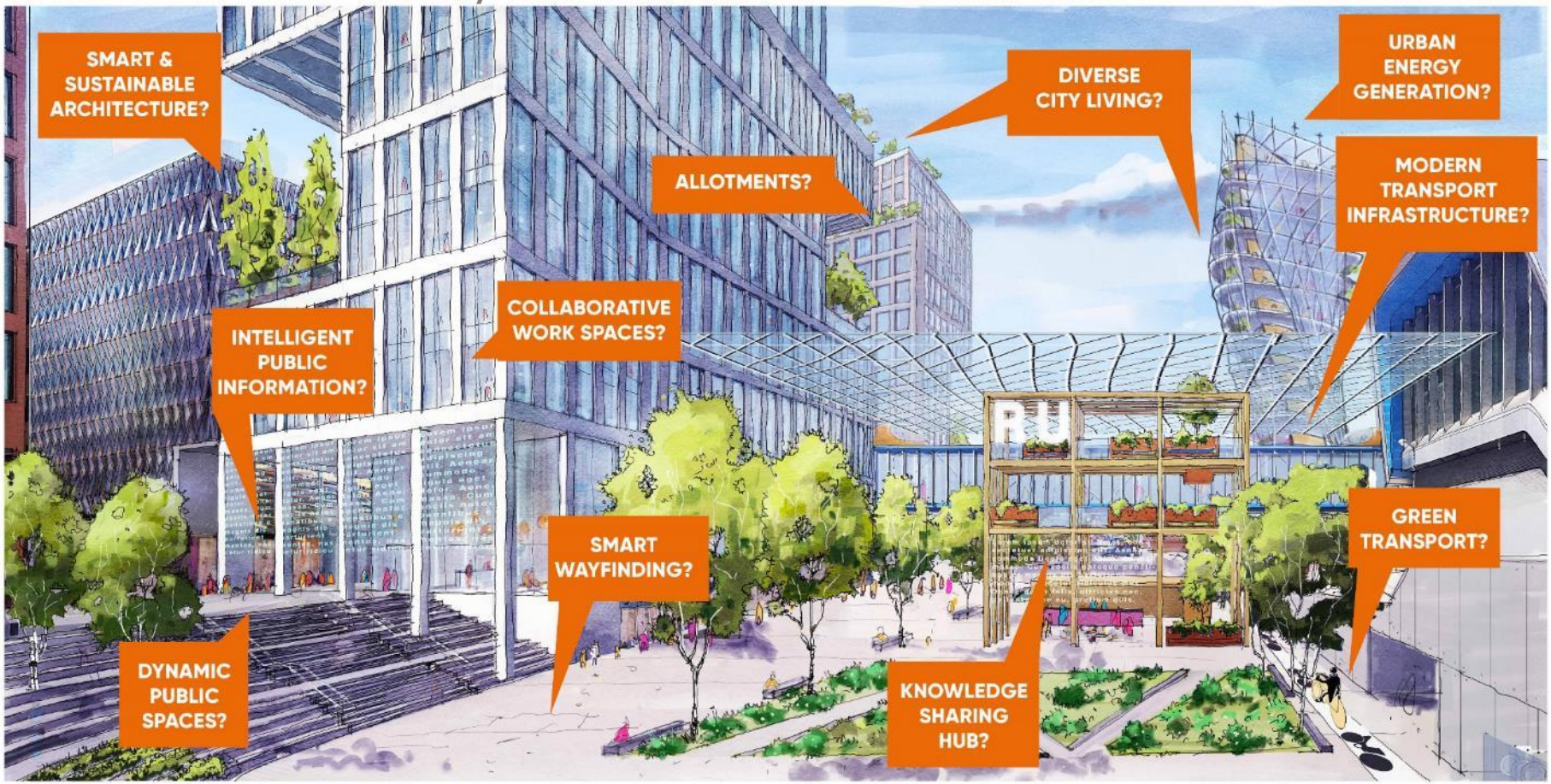
A city where low carbon living is the norm, and the built environment, technology and innovation have combined to create a dynamic, smart and sustainable city with a high quality of life and equal opportunities for all'.

www.reading2050.co.uk



A Green Tech City

Enhance our strengths in science, technology and the creative industries to provide a thriving collaborative economy and employment opportunities for all, as part of a smart & sustainable city.

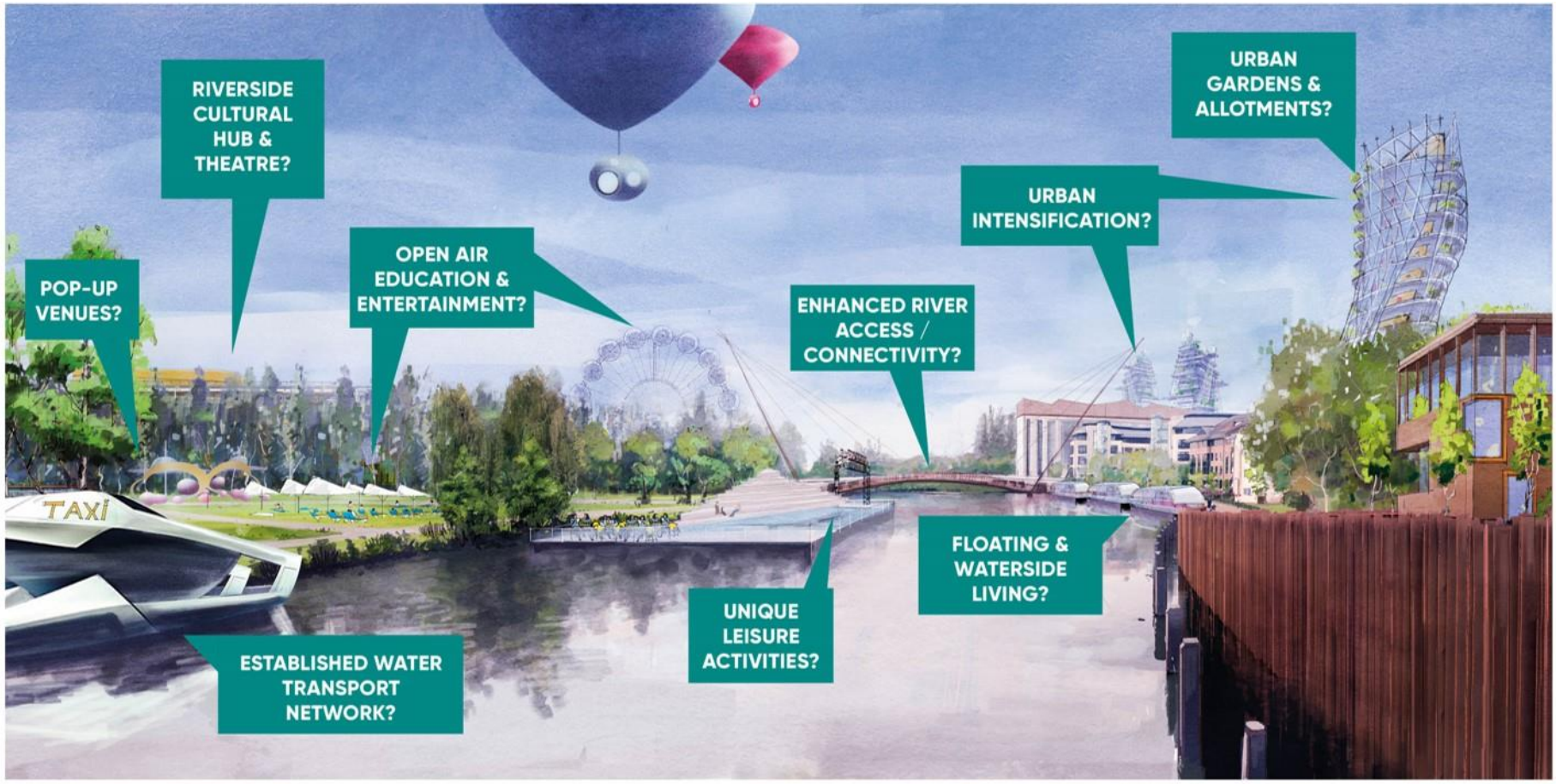


A City of Culture & Diversity

A city that delivers heritage, arts and cultural opportunities which are accessible to people of all ages/backgrounds and supports the evolution of stronger communities with a clear sense of place, city-wide.

A City of Rivers and Parks

A city that capitalises upon our corridors of green and blue to provide vital open space, connectivity and places to rest and play.



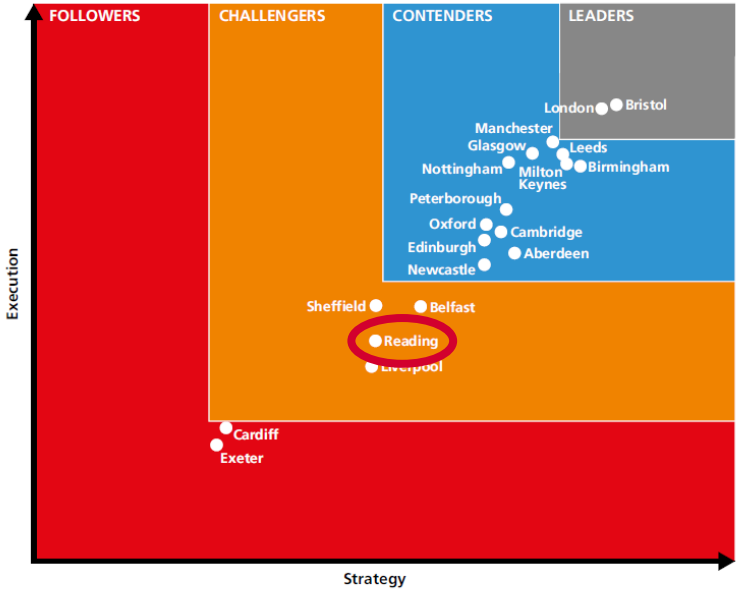
The over-arching vision statements…

SOME EMERGING PROJECTS

HUAWEI SMART CITY INDEX (2017) & DIT SMART CITIES PROPOSITION (2019)

Reading as a 'challenger' smart city and an 'emerging' smart city…..

Chart 1.1 - UK Smart Cities Index 2017



(Source: Navigant Research)

Emerging smart cities

1. Aberdeen
Aberdeen has embarked on a major reappraisal of the council's strategy to create a new framework for improving operations and providing a platform for future innovation. The city has already undertaken a range of innovative energy and transport projects.

2. Dundee
Dundee City Council is aiming to become a digital local authority by 2020. The vision is for the council to provide enhanced services through digital and promote the use of digital so that its citizens think digital first.

3. Belfast
Belfast has a coordinated vision of its evolution to a smarter city. Drawing on existing investment in the digital sector and strengthening collaboration with city partners and local universities will create significant acceleration of innovation.

4. Liverpool
Liverpool's work on smart and clean energy projects, its health research facilities, and its support for the growth of the local digital sector provide a good base for its developing smart city programme.

5. Sheffield
Sheffield has made strides in developing its growth plan further and implementing pilot city projects with a digital focus. There continues to be opportunity for the city to make stronger links between its broader strategy and the potential for smart city innovations, as is being explored in the Smart City Lab.

6. Cardiff
With its new city deal, Cardiff has the potential to develop and support an extensive smart city strategy. Cardiff's ambitious smart parking project showed there is an appetite to deploy innovative technology to meet city challenges.

7. Reading
Reading is well-placed to utilise local connections to support its development as a smart city. In 2019 a two year £1.7m IoT project will demonstrate how technology solutions can meet real-world challenges in delivering public sector services.

The Council is working with Exeter City Futures and others on a number of projects and has set out an ambitious environmental program. Regional plans to address transport and environmental issues provide greater scale for a range of initiatives. As one of the fastest growing cities, it will be increasingly important to address these issues in innovative ways.

9. Bournemouth
Building on Government-backed pioneering 5G mapping work carried out in Bournemouth, Dorset is spearheading the development of a Smart Place ecosystem to include gigabit fibre connectivity, public WiFi, Internet of Things, 5G (low, mid and high bands) and a platform with an open, agnostic architecture that hosts 'place data' – enabling application development.

SMART CITY CLUSTER – READING, BRACKNELL, WOKINGHAM & WEST BERKSHIRE

Thames Valley Berkshire LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

£1.73m Capital Funding through LEP, 2 Year Project (2018-20)

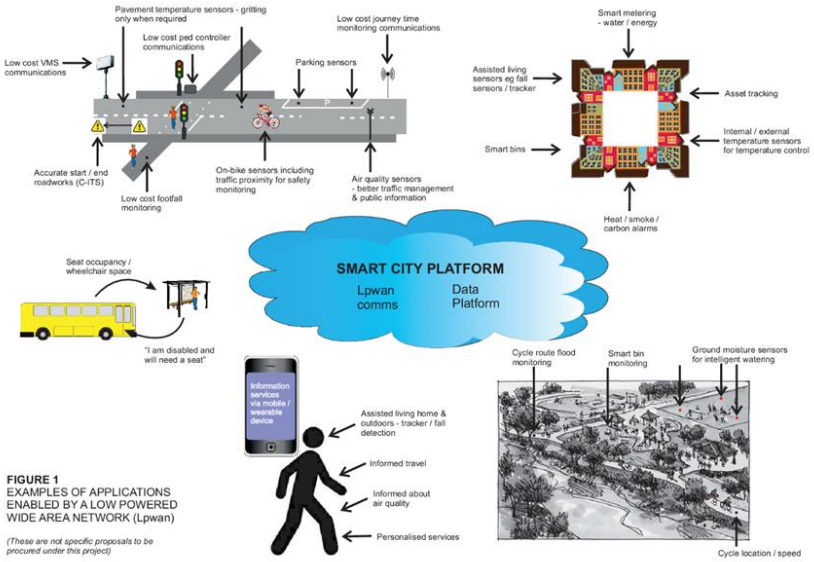
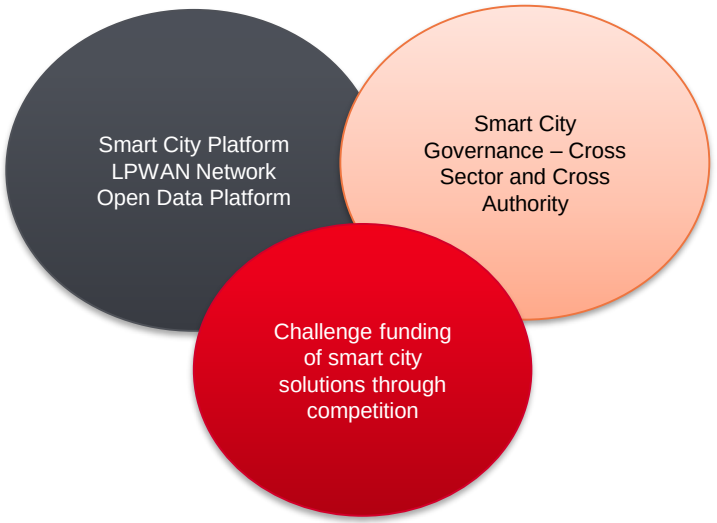


FIGURE 1
EXAMPLES OF APPLICATIONS ENABLED BY A LOW POWERED WIDE AREA NETWORK (Lpwan)

(These are not specific proposals to be procured under this project)



ADEPT DFT SMART PLACES

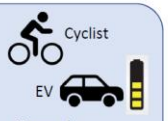
Focus on integration of key themes and outcomes

SMART materials
SMART communications
SMART energy
SMART mobility

People are at the heart of our bid:
- Participants
- Easier to get around
- Safer
- More productive Thames Valley

Wide geographical spread and scaleable
- 6 Authorities
- real transferability of outcomes
- Blue chip and SMEs involved

Smart **cross-theme** thinking demonstrated through three examples in this presentation



Siemens, University of Reading, 02 Telefonica, Peter Brett Associates, Wyra, Smarter Grid Solutions, Wokingham BC, Bracknell Forest Council, West Berks Council, Slough Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor Council, Thames Valley LEP and Shoothil	The proposal will utilise existing infrastructure and smart communication technology. Existing sources of data from traffic signal detectors will be fused with mobile phone data in order to provide a multi-modal view of real time movement across the Thames Valley. This will link with air quality data to produce a public health exposure model. The data is expected to inform transport, environment and planning projects throughout the Thames Valley region.	£4.75 million

URBAN ROOM: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE OF A PLACE

Farrell Report 2013

URBAN ROOM

Broadway Malyan
3D model of Reading town centre

Canvas for discussion about future development for students and Community

Physical space

VIRTUAL MODEL OF READING

rda 2050
STEP INTO READING'S FUTURE

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

QUADRUPLE HELIX: READING 2050

- University of Reading: anchor institution and civic university
- School of the Built Environment
- Altruism v grant funding?

- Key brokering role of Reading UK CIC
- Inward investment/economic growth
- Reading BC's role: other LAs?
- Local plan and corporate plan

- Barton Willmore – design / workshops
- Existing knowledge and capacity
- Strong built environment focus
- Thinking longer-term?

- Role of community groups/general public
- Councillors' workshop
- 'Step into Reading'

CONCLUSIONS

- Role of urban foresight
- Visions reflect power relations
- Extent of citizen engagement with vision
- Complements existing plans and strategies
- Important role of local authority
- Futures Commission and urban room
- Continuing process…zero carbon by 2030!

THANK YOU!
FURTHER INFORMATION ON READING 2050:
WWW.READING2050.CO.UK

t.j.dixon@reading.ac.uk

WORKSHOP

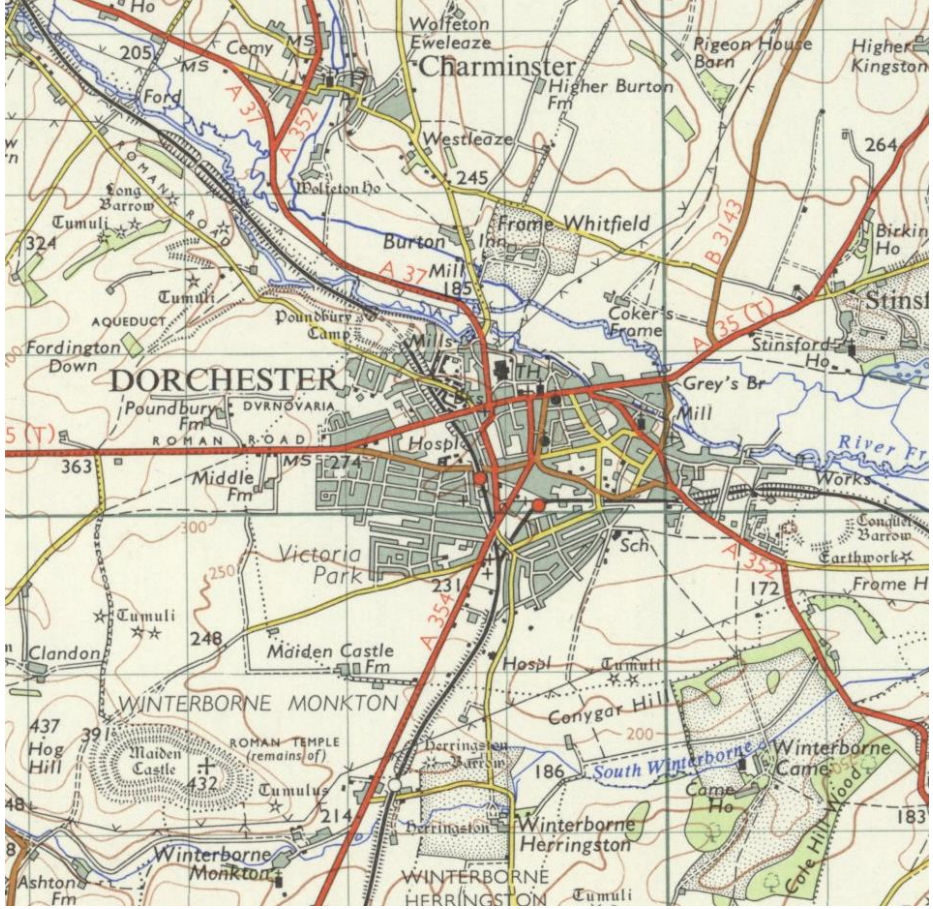
- What are the most important long-term challenges facing Dorchester to 2050?
- What sort of Dorchester do we want for 2050?

Timetable

7.45pm -8.30pm: Introduction to workshop (Alan R) and workshop (5 tables each with rapporteur: TBC at or before our 5 November Committee – Anthony G, Ian G, Tess J, David M and Roger W

8.30pm-9pm: Brief feedback from each rapporteur, wrap up and next steps (Tim D and Alan R)

Thank you - Tess J.


Wolfeton
Eweleaze
Charminster
Higher Burton
Fm
Pigeon House
Barn
Higher
Kingston
Cemy
Ford
Westleaze
Wolfeton Ho
Long
Barrow
Tumuli
Frome Whitfield
Burton
Mill
Birkin
Ho
Tumuli
AQUEDUCT
Poundbury
Camp
Coker's
Frome
Stinsford
Ho
Fordington
Down
DORCHESTER
Grey's Br
Poundbury
Fm
DVRNOVARIA
ROMAN ROAD
Hospl
Mill
River Fr
Middle
Fm
Works
Conquer
Barrow
Earthwork
Victoria
Park
Sch
Frome H
Tumuli
Clandon
Maiden Castle
Fm
Hospl
Tumuli
WINTERBORNE MONKTON
Conygar Hill
Hog
Hill
Maiden
Castle
ROMAN TEMPLE
(remains of)
Herringston
Barrow
South Winterborne
Winterborne
Came
Tumulus
Came
Ho
Herringston
Winterborne
Herringston
Winterborne
Monkton
Ashton
Fm
WINTERBORNE
HERRINGSTON
Tumuli
Cole Hill Wood
A 37
A 352
A 354
A 35 (T)
B 3143
205
264
245
324
185
363
274
300
250
231
172
248
437
391
432
214
186
183

1961

Today

Charminster
A37
A352
Gascoyne Lane
Coedlands
East Hill
Westlease
Styers Lane
B3143
The Plain
Higher
Bockhampton
A35
FROME WHITFIELD
COKERS FROME
KINGSTON
MAURWARD
Bockhampton Lane
Stinsford
Stinsford Hill
B3147
B3150
LOWER BOCKHAMPTON
Poundbury Road
The Grove
Burton
London Road
Kings Road
Corn Hill
Bridport Road
Dorset
County
Hospital
Damers Road
B3144
St Georges Road
Prince of Wales Road
Louise Road
Maiden Castle Road
Manor Road
Mellstock Avenue
Monkton Hill
Winterborne Came
Maiden Castle
Whitcombe
Winterborne
Monkton
Winterborne
Herringston
HERRINGSTON

"Its squareness was, indeed, the characteristic which most struck the eye in this antiquated borough, the borough of Casterbridge — at that time, recent as it was, untouched by the faintest sprinkle of modernism. It was compact as a box of dominoes. It had no suburbs — in the ordinary sense. Country and town met at a mathematical line"

WHAT THIS MEANS

The town should strive to retain a compact, walkable form as experienced in Hardy's time. While modernism had yet to reach Casterbridge / Dorchester at the time of this quote, the town should be able to successfully integrate new architectural styles alongside traditional buildings. How can it best do this?

"To birds of the more soaring kind Casterbridge must have appeared on this fine evening as a mosaic-work of subdued reds, browns, greys, and crystals, held together by a rectangular frame of deep green. To the level eye of humanity, it stood as an indistinct mass behind a dense stockade of limes and chestnuts ... the mass became gradually dissected by the vision into towers, gables, chimneys, and casements, the highest glazings, shining bleared and bloodshot with the coppery fire they caught from the belt of sunlit cloud in the west"

Source: Dorchester Town Masterplan Exhibition

DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO A VISION

NEXT STEPS

DORCHESTER VISION: CHALLENGES

- Balanced population
- Vibrant community
- Varied housing mix
- Public sector hub
- More diverse economy
- Modern infrastructure
- Heritage and environment
- Long-term growth

Dorchester Vision

Heritage Experience and Knowledge Economy

Dorchester is an attractive, affluent and historic county town, the home and inspiration of the author, Thomas Hardy. Three tiers of government are represented in the town including Dorchester Town, Dorset County and West Dorset District Councils. The town has two hospitals, a Land-based college and a number of heritage attractions including Dorchester Abbey, Dorset County Museum and Dorchester's historic Old Crown Court – where the Tolpuddle Martyrs were tried. Recently, these museums have attracted nearly £12 million in National Lottery Funding. Poundbury, Dorchester's famous urban extension, is due for completion in 2025.

Background

Dorchester's strengths are its heritage, attractiveness as a town centre and low unemployment. However, these strengths are also threatening what makes it special. Dorchester draws a significant proportion of its labour force from the surrounding rural areas and from Weymouth, creating significant traffic flows every day. As such, traffic and parking are major issues for the town centre. The growth in population and the continuing demand for more housing, as well as the potential for retail and tourism growth, are also putting increasing pressure on the town's infrastructure. A key priority is to deliver more affordable housing, balanced by appropriate forms of employment growth to achieve a more sustainable settlement. The public sector, health and education provide 56% of the town's employment; but this also points to a failure to grow in other sectors. While there are clear masterplans for parts of the town, for example Poundbury and Brewery Square, there has not been a coherent vision for the town as a whole to work towards.

Dorchester Vision

Dorchester's vision is contained with the **Dorchester Town Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019**. The Town Council has taken the lead in shaping a vision for the long term future of Dorchester in response to:

- the pressure on local government funding,
- the ongoing growth of the town, and
- the diminishing ability of other tiers of government to focus on local issues.

The Vision includes a summary action plan indicating short, medium and long term objectives and will be delivered either as a Neighbourhood Plan or by agreeing a Memorandum of Understanding with its key partners. The most important goal of the Town Council's Corporate Plan is to achieve recognition of its Vision by other parties in order to attract funding and political support.

The Town Council wants Dorchester to have:

- A more balanced population –providing opportunities for younger people and young families to be able to live in the town
- A vibrant community – supporting all sectors of our community
- A more varied housing mix.
- An important public sector hub – recognising the traditional role as county town and sub-regional hub.
- A more diverse economy – knowledge based small businesses enjoying a high quality of life, a better retail and night-time economy offer, a developed heritage based tourism offer.
- An infrastructure capable of coping with the demands that economic success brings.
- Respecting but taking advantage of our heritage & environment – a co-ordinated approach to tourism, active engagement to ensure that new developments complement the town's existing heritage.
- Aware of and in agreement with the long term phases of growth for the town and the area it serves to achieve the vision we need.

Projects and progress

Since consulting on the Vision, Dorchester has focused on delivering a shared vision for heritage tourism. This is to capitalise on the recent availability of new hotel accommodation in the town centre and the lottery funding award for Dorchester's historic museums. Conscious that each museum will be focused on their individual redevelopments, the heritage tourism vision will deliver a holistic approach to attracting longer staying visitors to the town.

In addition, West Dorset District Council are reassessing the options for the development of Dorchester's town centre in order to secure or improve Dorchester as an important sub-regional hub.

Learning point: Understanding your strengths

- Dorchester has looked at what its strengths are and is making them work harder for their economy - for example, heritage tourism.
- The value of having a Vision cannot be underestimated in terms of winning public and political support to address the issues facing the town's future.

Source: https://www.chichester.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=29362&p=0

DORCHESTER 2050: KEY THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Put the right partners together– work with the local authority, business, civil society and HEIs
- Integrated vision for whole of Dorchester (acknowledge existing 'visions')
- Leadership: who will lead?
- Investment of time and resources
- Public participation is key
- What are the key 'urban' challenges (short, medium and long-term)?
- What will be the high level vision and its goal?
- How does it link with existing visions and strategies? (incl LEP)
- Develop a roadmap of how to get there
- Use visuals and develop an urban room?
- How will the vision be monitored and reviewed?

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Reading 2050: www.reading2050.co.uk
- Reading 2050 paper: https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0269094218800677
- Future of Cities Programme: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/future-of-cities
- Chichester Vision: https://www.chichester.gov.uk/cityandtownvisions (reference to Dorchester!)
- Urban Room Network: https://urbanroomsnetwork.wordpress.com/
- Urban Room article: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/universities-urban-rooms-city-planning-architecture-future-education-a8738846.html

- Videos (reading Museum –Where's Reading heading? https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/explore/get-involved/museum-projects
- Reading REP: https://www.readingrep.com/reading-2050/