

UNIVERSITY-LED URBAN REGENERATION

POLICY MILESTONES

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Policy milestones in urban regeneration and higher education

- 1963 **Robbins Report:**
Higher education: report of the Committee appointed by the Prime Minister under the Chairmanship of Lord Robbins 1961–63, Cmnd. 2154, London: HMSO. The Robbins Report recommended the expansion of higher education including the provision for all Colleges of Advanced Technology to assume the status of universities. It launched a national system of mass university education, including a wave of new out-of-town campus universities constructed during the 1960s and 1970s
- 1979 **Election of Conservative government headed by Margaret Thatcher**
- 1981 **Government funding cuts to universities of 11%:**
 introduction of full-cost fees for international students, and reduction of student places by 20,000
- 1981 **Urban Development Corporations and Enterprise Zones created:**
 relaxing development constraints in particular areas to stimulate regeneration
- 1986 **Second wave university funding cuts under Thatcher:**
 introduction of Research Assessment Exercise, instituting research accountability and separating funding of teaching from that of research
- 1986 **Abolition of structure plans and replacement with county planning statements and Unitary Development Plans**
- 1990 **Freezing of student maintenance grant and introduction of top-up loans through Student Loans Company**
- 1990 **Resignation of PM Margaret Thatcher, succeeded by John Major**
- 1991 **City Challenge:**
 competitive bidding introduced for government funds for urban regeneration initiatives
- 1992 **Re-election of Conservative government led by John Major**
- 1992 **Further and Higher Education Act:**
 allowed polytechnics and other HE institutions to apply for university status and ended the binary divide between providers; established new funding councils – HEFCE
- 1992 **Local Agenda 21 (LA21):**
 United Nations action plan on global sustainable development, including statement of community involvement in planning as a fundamental principal of implementation by local authorities (Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro)
- 1994 **Single Regeneration Budget:**
 set up to bring together a variety of different regeneration programmes and budgets from several government departments and identify areas of need
- 1997 **Labour Government elected, led by Tony Blair**
- 1997 **Dearing Report into funding of universities:**
 favoured means-tested tuition fees and recommended that students should pay around 25 per cent of the cost of tuition. Upfront fees capped at £1,000 were introduced and the maintenance grant abolished for 1998–99

- 1998 National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal: set up by Social Exclusion Unit as the most comprehensive government initiative to date to implement joined-up thinking across departments around neighbourhood decline, and inclusive, partnership-based action. Included New Deal for Communities programme, Community Plans, Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)
- 1998–2000 Regional Development Agencies established: nine non-departmental public bodies to oversee development of Government Office regions
- 1998 Teaching and Higher Education Act: introduced student fees of £1000 and student loans to replace maintenance grants except for poorer students
- 2000 Urban White Paper: Our Towns and Cities: based on Lord Rogers Urban Task Force Report, it aimed to encourage business to invest in UK cities, including better design and provision of affordable homes. ‘Urban renaissance’ placed at heart of planning system, and a Neighbourhood Renewal Fund of £800m made available over 3 years
- 2001 **Labour government re-elected under Tony Blair**
- Renewed action on community participation in local planning and neighbourhood renewal:
- 2001 *A new commitment to neighbourhood renewal: national strategy action plan* (Cabinet Office)
- 2002 *Sustainable Communities: Delivering through Planning* (ODPM) (*Community Involvement: Roots of a Renaissance?* 2002)
- 2003 *Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future* (ODPM)
- 2003 The Future of Higher Education White Paper: recommended raising student fees to £3000 pa, implemented 2004 (Higher Education Act)
- 2005 Single Community Programme launched: to merge Community Empowerment Fund, Community Chests and Community Learning Chests, forming a single funding stream to support community participation in neighbourhood renewal
- 2005 *Sustainable Communities: people, places and prosperity*
- 2005 Local Development Framework and new Planning Policy Statements
- 2006 Department of Communities and Local Government created: replaces Office of the Deputy Prime Minister under John Prescott, and launches *Together We Can!*; *Strong and Prosperous communities: Local Government White Paper* (DCLG)
- 2007 *Action Plan for Community Empowerment: building on success*
- 2007 *Planning for a Sustainable Future: Planning White Paper* (CLG)
- 2010 Browne Review: recommends removing the cap on student fees
- 2010 **Coalition government elected, led by David Cameron**
- 2010 Coalition government votes to increase fees to £9000 pa from 2012
- 2010 Great Outdoors programme: public realm improvements for London in run-up to Olympics – investment in public space to maintain London’s image

- 2010 **Wilson Review:**
promoting university-business collaboration following Higher Education White Paper. The review places universities in their wider context locally and internationally
- 2011 **Localism Act:**
devolution of planning decision-making process, abolition of RDAs and replacement by Local Enterprise Partnerships without central government funding; designation of Community Assets and Community Right to Build, and promotion of Neighbourhood Plans
- 2013 **Witty Review of Universities and Growth:**
published by Department for Business Innovation and Skills. Encouraging universities to work with LEPs on Strategic Economic Plans as important sources of economic advantage with international reach. Encourage universities to interact with SMEs, by providing research and advice (espec Business Schools)

United States

- 1960s Ford Foundation supported university engagement to tackle urban problems
- 1968–1974 ‘Urban observatories’ network:
sponsored by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to monitor and intervene in problem neighbourhoods
- 1985 **Campus Compact:**
founded by Brown, Georgetown and Stanford Universities, to integrate the concept of civic engagement into campus and academic life and address specific problems in the areas of literacy, health care, hunger, homelessness, the environment and care for the elderly
- 1990 **Declaration of Metropolitan Universities**
signed by 48 presidents and chancellors of public universities, establishing a national consortium with a commitment to addressing the problems of metropolitan areas through teaching, research and professional service and different kinds of partnership, at both the urban and regional level
- 2001 **Building Communities programme:**
launched by Rockefeller Foundation, headed by David Maurrasse