

Professor Alan Penn

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UrbanBuzz: an overview

Alan Penn

The Bartlett, UCL

The need for better design...

Lord Rogers...

**“we are in danger of designing tomorrow’s
slums in the Thames Gateway”**

Building Magazine, April 2008



Sustainability – why?

20 years since Brundtland defined sustainability in terms of future generations –

What will we pass to our children?
climate change leading to...

Flood... famine... pestilence... war...

Sustainable communities

Economic, social, environmental

Politically sustainable – equitable & empowering

Aspirational – people must want them – this means culture, creativity, personal identity

Innovative – change is the one sure thing about the future – we will need to innovate to survive

How?

Cities 'work' not because we understand them rationally/consciously

...but because we experience/live them unconsciously

Does this mean they are chaos?

No! the opposite...

They were produced by distributed processes – emergent from the actions of many players, markets, communities of practice; accidents of history subject to human selection...

This means they are highly structured...

So... what happened?

Emergence and markets are open to abuse so government gained a role: regulation and planning...

Pandora's box or the fall of Eve...

We gained (a little) knowledge, but it was defined by professions and disciplines...

Cities (and 'sustainability') are holistic as domains and so 'silo thinking' is part of the problem... it leads to functional zoning, functional transport planning and 'estates'...

Too little knowledge can be a dangerous thing...

What's the problem?

Policy is there, the will is there, the knowledge is there, but why are we not building them?

Sustainability is 'ecological' – it entails whole systems and interrelated networks

Knowledge, institutions, regulations and professions are all domain 'silos'

Professionalisation of knowledge domains removes autonomy from local communities

Universities are key generators and reproducers of these silos

So – we asked for funds to do something

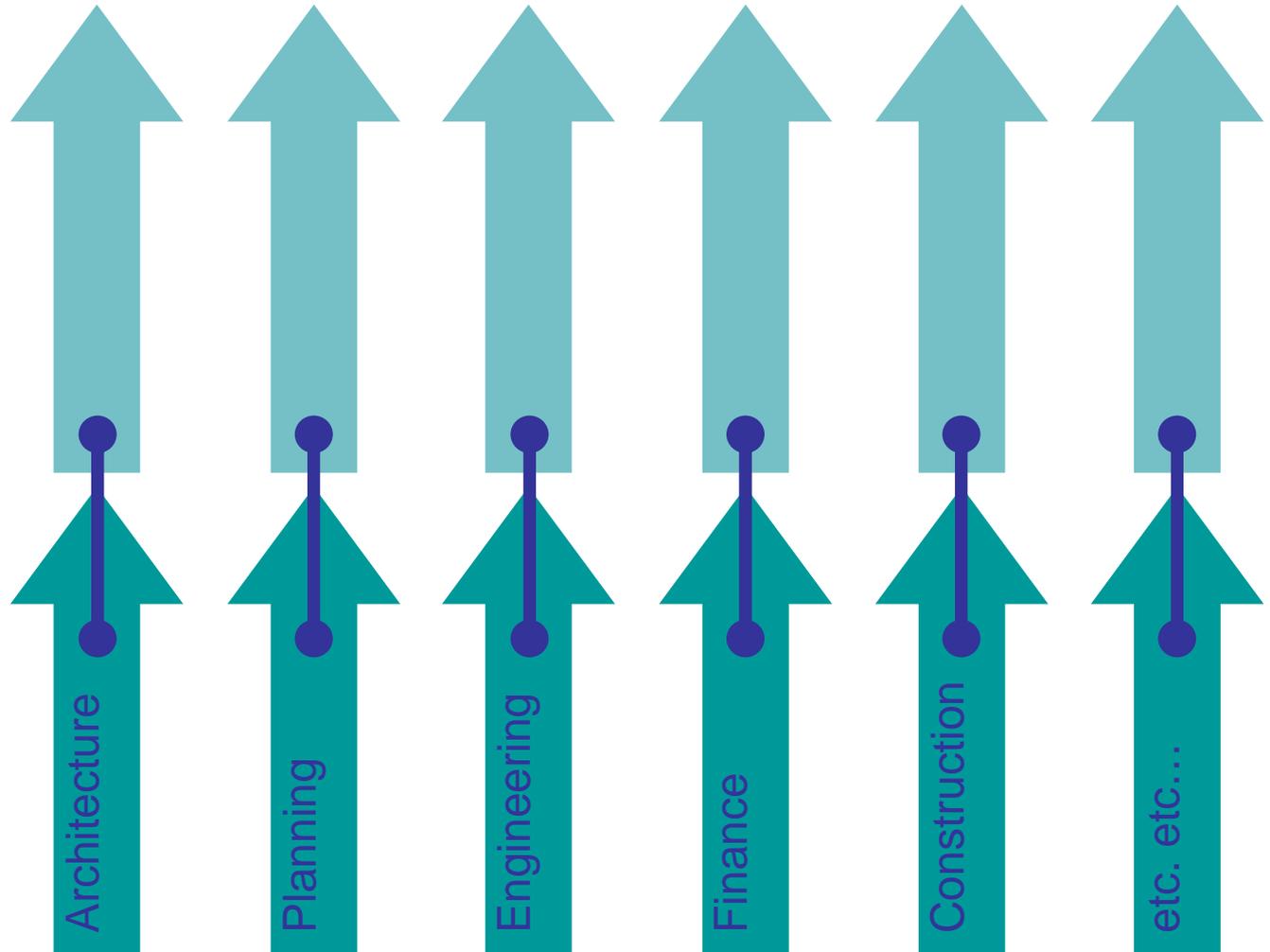
£5m – two years

UrbanBuzz
Building sustainable communities

Silo structures

Professions,
organisations
and sectors in
business and
the community

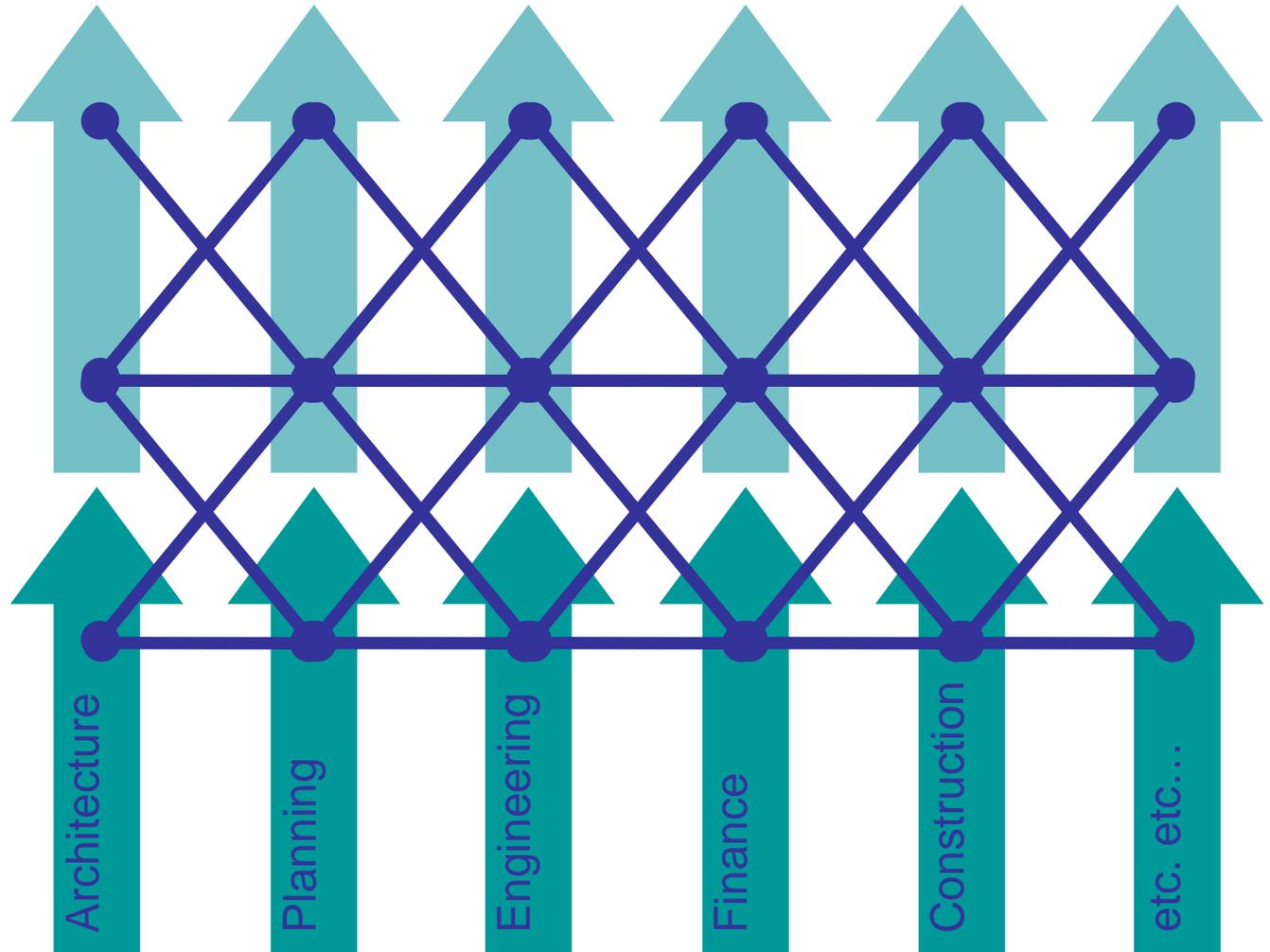
Disciplines in
university
research &
teaching



UrbanBuzz makes the networks

Professions,
organisations
and sectors in
business and
the community

Disciplines in
university
research &
teaching



How have we been doing it?

Workshops, events, clubbing and partying to identify barriers

Speed dating and web profile matching – to allow people to define projects

Projects to get people working together

Buying out people's time to collaborate – a network of 'fellows'

UrbanBuzz
Building sustainable communities



MEMBER LOGOUT

- Welcome Alan Penn
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PROJECTS

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'BuzzNet' *First event, HMS President 18th April 6pm* [Click for more!](#)



NEWS



EVENTS

UrbanBuzz Workshop - 2nd Feb 2007

Published by: Programme Office

Download the presentation from the event here, including first round results.

Call for Evaluators

Published by: Programme Office

UrbanBuzz are seeking evaluators for the second and following rounds.

Second Round CLOSED

Published by: UrbanBuzz Admin

The Second Round Closed at midnight on the 9th of March with over 50 new project proposals

Second Round Submission Now Closed



ADDRESS BOOK

- Invite contact
- Existing contacts
- Incoming requests
- Pending approvals



SEARCH ENTIRE SYSTEM

project

Search →

Restrict Search to My Network Contacts only

Social networking in UrbanBuzz

Search Results in Network

- ☐   Alan Penn
- └─ ☐  Muki Haklay  **sms**
project_info:project
- └─ ☐   samantha heath 
other_information:project, project_info:project
- └─ ☐   Melanie Francis 
other_information:project, project_info:project
- └─ ☐   Gail Dinner 
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- └─ ☐  Joann Tang 
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- └─ ☐   Bridget Imeson 
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- └─ ☐  Susan Batty  **sms**
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- └─ ☐  Christoph Hadrys 
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- └─ ☐   Adrian Renton  **sms**
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project_info:project
- └─ ☐  Sarah Parry-Jones  **sms**

Legend

- └─ LINK
-  Public Sector
-  Business
-  HEI
-  Voluntary Sector



ADDRESS BOOK

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Innovation - moving academia

from competitive bids for funding and beauty contests

to opening and sharing their ideas for projects and accepting critical comment

not just working with 'usual suspects' but across entrenched boundaries

A managed programme – but defined and managed by the community itself

Appropriation is a key

Social and economic life happens in surprising places

To move from ‘sustainable’ to ‘aspirational’ and ‘innovative’ we must create the spaces for culture and creativity...

UrbanBuzz Project Clusters

Greening:

- urban agriculture
- energy performance
- environmental
- green industry placements
- community projects

Engagement:

- communities
- gender
- elderly
- youth & schools
- interns

Regeneration:

- policy
- governance
- planning &
- density
- infrastructure

Mapping:

- crime
- ethnicity
- property value
- roads & realms
- community info
- scenario planning

“Greening” projects zone

- **ABUNDANCE** – urban agriculture
- **CARBONBUZZ** - carbon emission monitoring scheme
- **DeiDemonstration** – deployable external insulation
- **LC4R** - Low Carbon Housing – learning from Leeds trials
- **LEVH** - Low Energy Victorian House - Camden
- **Towards Zero Carbon Schools** – event
- **Energy Performance of Dwellings** – event
- **REBOPSE** – placing socially-excluded young people into work
- **RETILE-COMBEEP** – community based environmental projects



The seeds of sustainable change

The Abundance project is rooted in the potential of cities to produce food. A community in Brixton, south London, has created a flourishing demonstration plot and is working through the issues involved to sustain it

Activating Blighted Urban Niches for Daring Agricultural Networks of Creativity and Endeavour

Project

Activating Blighted Urban Niches for Daring Agricultural Networks of Creativity and Endeavour (ABUNDANCE)

Project coordinator

Robert Bliel, UCL

Project partners

Transition Towns Brixton, Guinness Trust Residents Association, volunteers

Website

<http://transitiontowns.org/Brixton/ABUNDANCE>

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The Abundance project aims to create a 'low input, high output' community garden, and to demonstrate just how productive urban agriculture can be.

'Surveys suggest that a very significant amount, as high as 60 per cent, of food needs could be met within cities if all available space were to be cultivated, including rooftops, balconies, allotments and urban green space,' says project coordinator Robert Bliel.

The team and local residents are already enjoying the first crops of fruit and vegetables they've grown in their new demonstration plot at the Guinness Trust allotments in Brixton, south London.

A key driver for Abundance is the emerging global food crisis and the drive to reduce food

miles, with food and fuel prices soaring and global urban populations outstripping rural ones for the first time. The project brings in extensive experience from countries that have been forced by circumstance to cultivate all available land, for example Cuba and Argentina.

In Argentina, for example, community gardens were created to mitigate the effects of the 2001 economic collapse. As the economy recovered, the popular concept was reworked into government-run urban agriculture programmes providing unemployed workers with food and an income. It would seem that adversity breeds sustainability, as the Brixton plot, along with many of London's parks and gardens, was last cultivated during the food shortages of wartime Britain.



'I'm often here and the kids come up to me and ask "Who is going to eat all this stuff?" "Can I have my own patch?" Can I grow what I like?". At the moment, we don't know all the answers' Louise, estate resident

Lessons from South America are promoting a radical rethink of the possibilities for urban agriculture in an innercity context by...

- GROWING
- MAPPING
- DEMONSTRATING



Low Carbon Lifestyles...

When is a window not a window?

When it's a well-insulated wall. The DEI Demonstration project aims to give us back our windows – when we need them. A key driver behind this project is to think about sustainable ways for living in and using buildings

Project

DEI Demonstration

Project coordinator

Professor Stephen Gage, UCL

Project partners

Make Architects, Haque Design+Research;
Max Fordham, Douglas Stephen Partnership

Website

www.deployable.org.uk

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'We're re-thinking the ways in which windows operate,' says project coordinator Professor Stephen Gage. 'Building regulations have obliged designers to reduce window sizes to minimise heat loss. Based on the observation that internal spaces are frequently unoccupied, we're turning windows into well-insulated walls when the space behind them isn't in use, or when it's dark. There is little point, as we move towards a low energy future, in windows that lose heat in winter and gain excess heat in summer.'

Gage's response is the idea of Deployable External Insulation (DEI) in the form of solid insulated external shutters that respond to external temperature and sunlight intensity,

acting as both insulating and shading devices. 'This system has the potential to be three to nine times better than a standard window at conserving heat energy,' says Gage. 'We think it has great potential for reducing heat loss in both new and existing buildings.'

DEI as a concept puts the spotlight on building use and occupancy patterns. Inhabitants have choices: whether to be either hot or cold, to have light or to stay in the dark. 'We need to re-think the way we heat and light our spaces – and also, in the context of low carbon living, the clothes we wear and our desired room temperatures,' says Gage. 'Technology provides options, but it's people that come up with solutions.'



Key points to date

Patent on wax piston technology filed by UCL (UCL Business) March 2008. Interest from potential manufacturers and users is being actively investigated

The container is now at Trinity Buoy Wharf, overlooking the Thames, and is being monitored for a six-month period

More information, including videos, simulations, diagrams and background data, is available on the project website: www.deployable.org.uk

Data from performance monitoring of the DEI system will provide the basis for academic papers and journal articles to raise awareness of these systems



Future-proofing energy use in our homes

Academics, building professionals and energy experts are learning from the Low Energy Victorian House, one of only three period homes in the UK to robustly monitor its energy performance following refurbishment

“95% of future tasks is to make existing buildings more sustainable”

Fosters, 2008

Project

Low Energy Victorian House (LEVH)

Project coordinator

Chit Chong, Camden Council

Project partners

Camden Council, UCL, Landers Associates, Lengard Ltd, Kingspan, Oxley Conservation, Sustainable Energy Academy

Website

www.levh.org.uk

Contact details

chit.chong@camden.gov.uk

This project aims to show how Victorian dwellings can be refurbished to conserve both heritage and energy so that future generations can take pride in their architectural heritage without seeing them as an emissions burden

efficiency work in the next decade. We need to ensure that we are maximising opportunities for energy reduction,' says Dr Ian Ridley, Bartlett

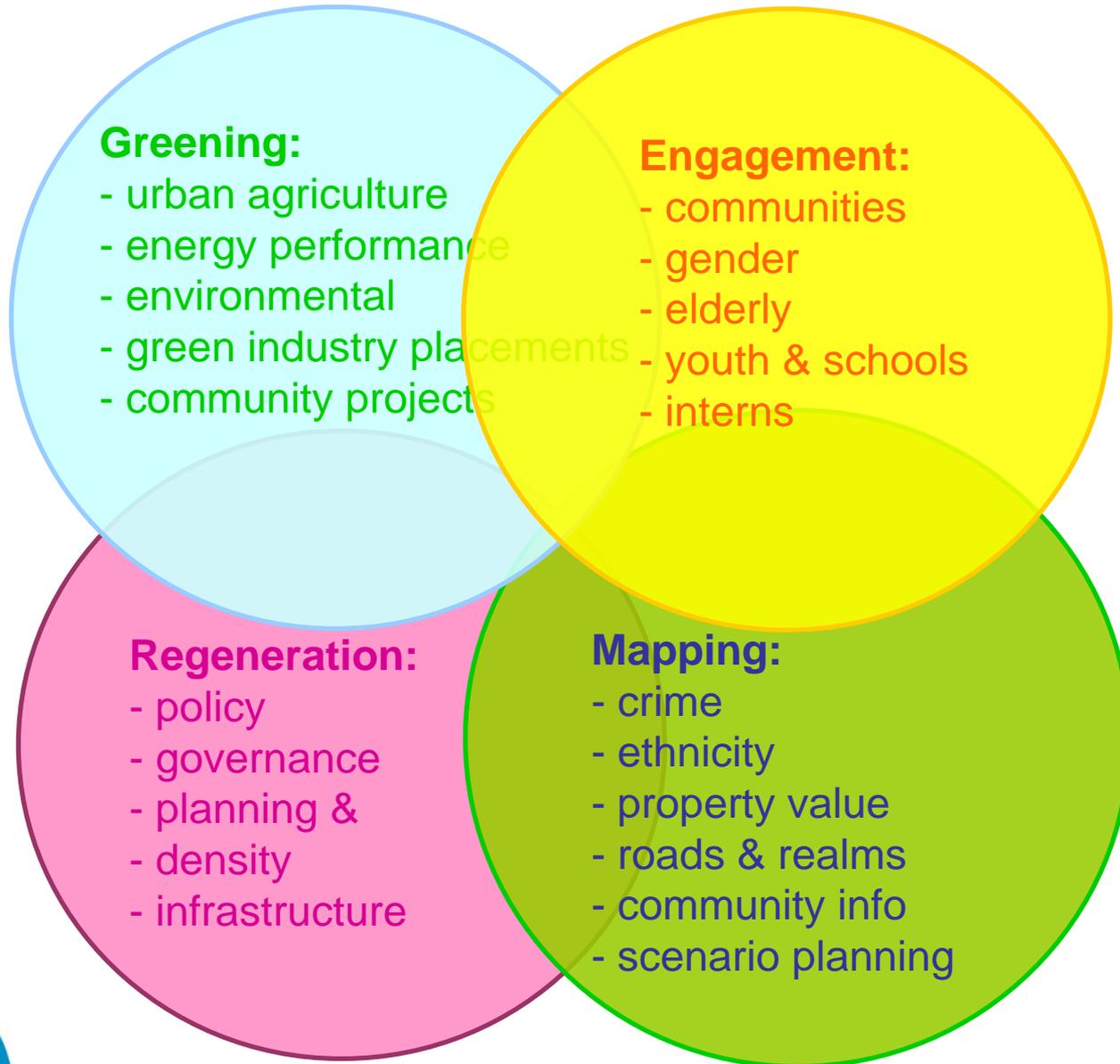
expertise. Their experiences are being recycled into cross-cutting academic research, a training DVD and construction and training policy, and

(right) The house before renovation

(far right) The new windows in the house are double glazed for energy efficiency, yet retain a period character



UrbanBuzz Project Clusters



“Engagement” projects zone

- **CD-G Workshop** – collaborative design for the Thames Gateway
- **GBE** – Gender & the Built Environment
- **Mobilising Knowledge** – including elderly in planning processes
- **LSTS** – London Students towards Sustainability – interns/events
- **ROOTSCAPE** – promoting youth-friendly urban design



Sex in the city: planning and gender

Gendersite, a comprehensive online resource for gender and the built environment, will help the planning and development community to create inclusive environments that meet the needs of both women and men

Last
'women's
design
manual' was
c.30 years
ago..

Project
GBE
Project coordinator
Wendy Davis, WDS
Project partners
Women's Design Service, QMUL
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www.gendersite.org
Contact details
gendersite@wds.org.uk



In a planning policy arena peppered with 'community empowerment' and 'inclusive design' soundbites, it's difficult to make a case that gender issues deserve particular attention. Surely women are part of the community, and their needs covered by community-wide inclusivity planning? 'Not necessarily,' says Wendy Davis, GBE project coordinator and director of the Women's Design Service (WDS). 'Treating the sexes "equally" simply doesn't work.' She takes transport planning, very much at the top of today's development agenda, as an example. 'Post-war public transport networks were traditionally designed in a radial fashion with predominantly male commuters travelling from suburbs to work in the city centre,' she says. 'Orbital and multi-hop

suburban journeys can be incredibly difficult to do by public transport. So many parents – at least those who can – use cars for the school run and shopping, and they're berated by the green agenda for causing pollution. How are they supposed to go to work, to the shops, to the school, to the doctor, all using public transport? These days, it's practically impossible.'

WDS realised, through experience and requests for support, that practitioners and government stakeholders knew little of research relating to gender and the built environment. 'Although the Gender Equality Duty requires all public bodies and their contractors to actively promote gender equality, there are no guidelines on this for built

environment issues as there are, for example, for disability,' says Clare Melhuish, Gendersite researcher. Awareness of existing gender research was very low, and a comprehensive resource database simply did not exist. The GBE team set out to rectify this. The result, Gendersite, is a free online resource for anyone seeking information about gender issues in the built environment. 'We wanted to address everyday issues,' says Clare. 'Why are there never any queues outside men's toilets? Why are women six times less likely to go out alone after dark? Why are 90 per cent of people employed in the construction-related professions in the UK male?'

To date, where gender does appear as a research subject, it is frequently packaged with



home



about us



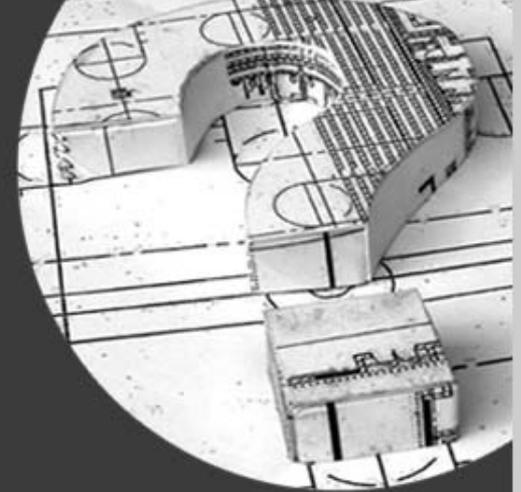
case studies



contact



links



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Gender and the Built Environment Database

Welcome to Gendersite

The definitive online resource for gender and the built environment

Sex and the City: Gender & the Built Environment free training sessions

Free training sessions to support the launch of Gendersite taking place at various venues in London: 9th & 28th October as part of the UrbanBuzz Launch Pad

[Register here](#)

Everyone involved in the built environment world tries to meet the needs of their clients. Child-sized furniture is designed for nurseries, disabled parking bays are located next to entrances, sheltered housing sites are planned near post offices and shops. However people are often unaware of the needs of a majority of the population; women. With the introduction of the Gender Equality Duty there is now a legal obligation to consider those needs.

Gendersite provides a route to all the information needed to gain a better understanding of gender issues in the built environment. The site lists books, bibliographies, broadcasts, conference papers, journals, reports, unpublished PhDs and more. Just choose the keyword (from the drop-down menu) that is most relevant to your project or area of interest.

We welcome your feedback on the website. Please also send us links to any research not yet included in our database. Email gendersite@wds.org.uk

Database researched by Dr Clare Melhuish. This project was supported by the UCL-led UrbanBuzz Programme, within which UEL is a prime partner



Closing the generation gap

The Mobilising Knowledge project explored older people's experience of the city and created ways of incorporating their perspectives into the planning and design process

New toolkit for developers and designers.

Learning feeding into Local Borough Council policy and practice.

Report + DVD

Project
Mobilising Knowledge
Project coordinator
Gesche Wuerfel
Project partners
Goldsmiths College CUCR, UCL, City Mine(d),
Lewisham Council, London Older People's
Strategy Group
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The UK has an ageing population. With Office of National Statistics (ONS) figures predicting that over 65-year-olds will constitute more than 24 per cent of the UK population by 2036, it's a demographic that's been getting a lot of attention. Older people have a wealth of experience, and the Mobilising Knowledge project set out to create channels for feeding this experience into the planning system.

New community powers enshrined in the Government's Planning Bill, currently passing through Parliament, could see community activists playing a bigger role in shaping local affairs. Local authorities and planners need to be ready. Placed in context, the project is very timely. The team brought 22 Lewisham

residents, aged above 60 years, together with local stakeholders in six sessions over a three-week summer school.

The participants explored a range of themes – transport, schools, hospitals and GP access – through workshops, walking tours, photography exercises and discussion groups. The findings from these sessions have been published in a comprehensive 'toolkit' for including older people in planning, along with a report and a DVD. As well as outlining the case for involving older people in planning, the toolkit offers good practice guidelines for organising workshops and information-gathering events, including sample budgets and logistics. Copies have been sent to local authorities and to professionals seeking to work with older people.

A culture change for planners

Planners are going through a culture change regarding their relationship with the public, says summer school external expert Lovelace Poku, former Planning policy officer, Lewisham, now at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. 'The current planning framework sees us engaging the public a lot more than we used to in the days of Unitary Development Plans. We have to be more flexible, and the toolkit is a really a good start. It's a stepping stone to trying out new methods. But, in the end, implementation depends on staff resources.'

The participants made many interesting observations relating to streetscape and urban design. For some, mobility is an important issue, as is the need for more public toilets, and for

Hands-on skills for young people

The young students taking part in the Rootscape project: Leys Remix are demonstrating just how readily they understand what makes a place good or bad – and how to make changes for the better

Project

The Rootscape Project: Leys Remix

Project coordinator

Professor Georgia Butina Watson,
Oxford Brookes University

Project partners

Oxford Brookes University,
Oxford Youth Works

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Academics, postgraduate students, teachers and youth workers are taking part in a series of activities and workshops in Oxford with three groups of Year 10 students from two local schools. Each group lives or studies in an area that is soon to undergo extensive regeneration, with a focus on the Blackbird Leys Estate. Insights and suggestions are being fed into active masterplanning discussions through an advisory panel set up by project leader Professor Georgia Butina Watson, Oxford Brookes University.

Sitting in on a workshop, it's clear that the students bring a refreshingly clear and common sense approach to spatial issues, the roots of antisocial behaviour, place management and instilling local pride. Their language may be different – the academics speak of permeability, surveillance, public and private as they introduce ideas. The students

talk of smoking spots, dead ends, places that they've given up on, no patrol, wreckage and rubbish, lack of respect for people and property, litter bins that they can't use without getting filthy, ponds with no more frogs and places without views.

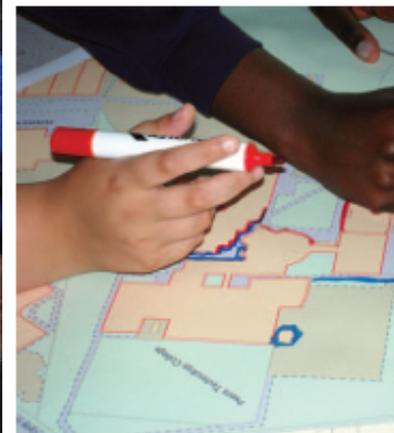
Nothing lost in translation

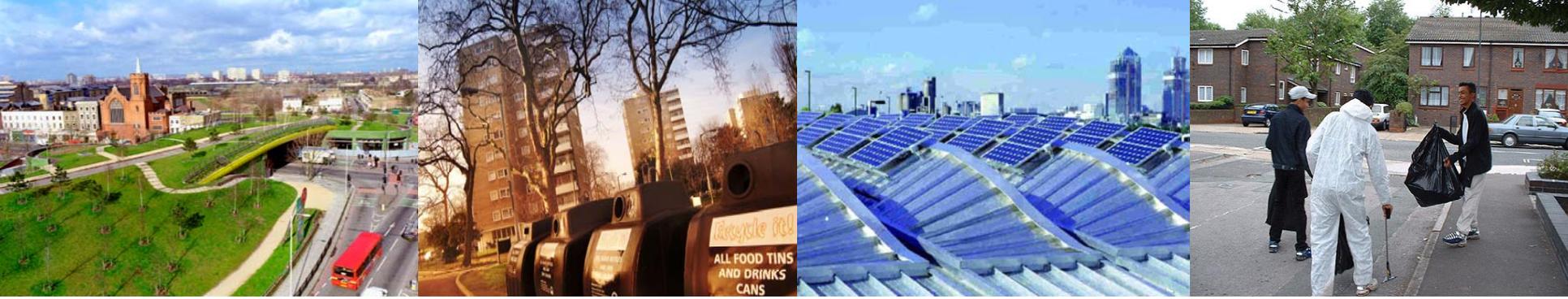
But little is lost in translation; the student-eye description of the issues is straight from a placemaking exemplar guide. Whatever the words, it's clear that these 15-year-olds know their localities intimately, and have an excellent grasp of grassroots moves they'd make to take back the space they don't feel comfortable using at the moment. The sense of disappointment that they feel in the environment that adults have provided for them – and expect them to respect – is tangible.

Translating this innate knowledge into positive action is a key focus of this project, which is as much about personal development as it is about urban design. During confidence- and team-building exercises at a survival park, and visits to local community gardens, the groups have learned multimedia skills such as photography and video-making.

These skills were put into practice in explorations of the regeneration area, with the resulting images and footage used as discussion points. The students also made powerpoint presentations for workshop sessions highlighting the good and the bad elements of their spaces. Later in the project, they'll be developing their visual and graphic skills as they learn how to create presentation documents for designers.

Several weeks into the project, the groups are





London Students Towards Sustainability

A unique London-based network of students and private and public sector organisations that will facilitate knowledge-sharing and networking

LSx

London Sustainability Exchange

This project is supported by the UCL-led UrbanBuzz Programme, within which UEL is a prime partner



The project provides:

- An **innovative internship scheme** 'Match-making' students with employers offering work placements in sustainability-related fields.
- An **e-bulletin** and online resources.
- A programme of **events** bringing together students and professionals to share knowledge on current sustainability issues.

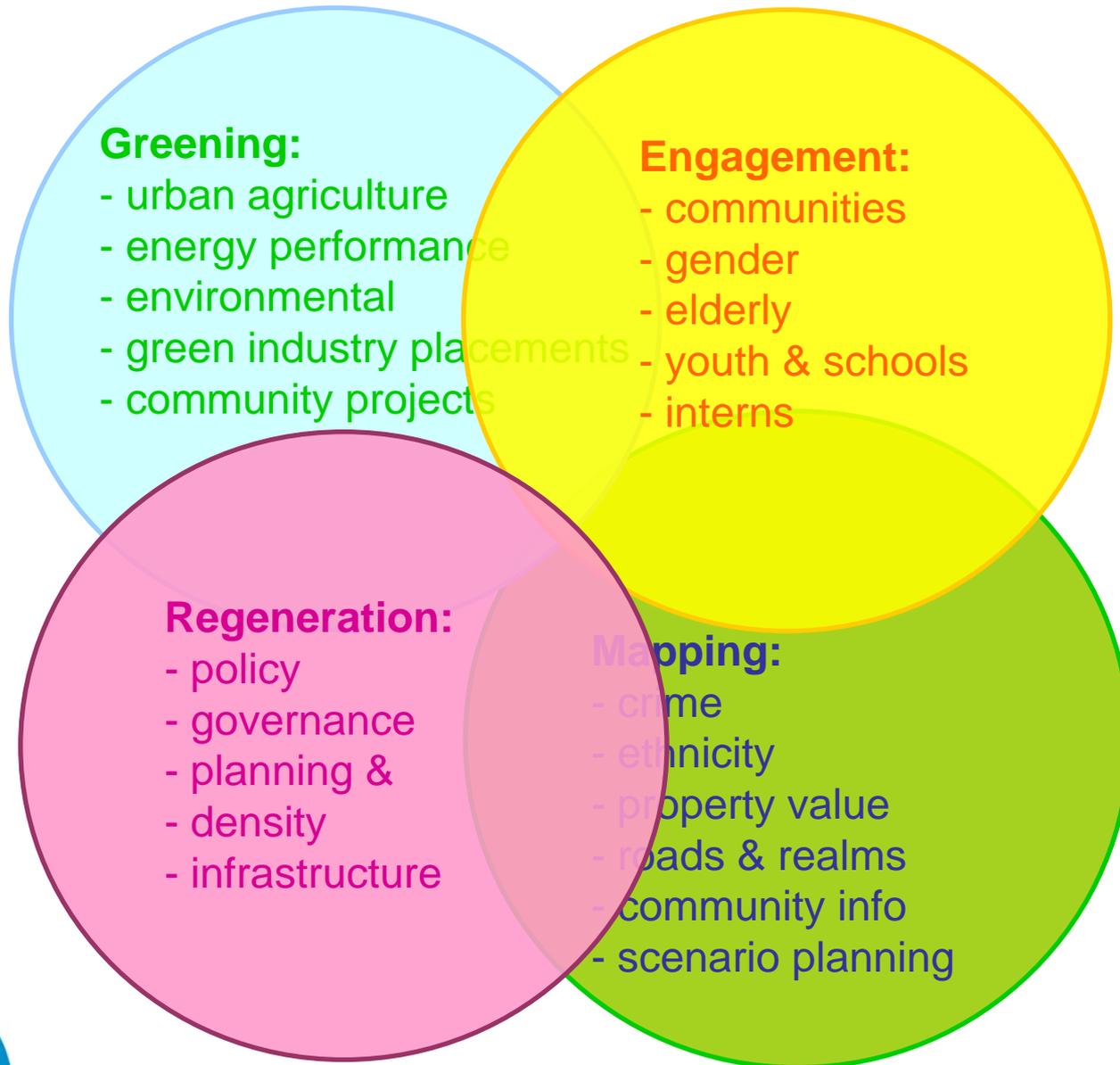


Supporting London's students to pursue careers in sustainable communities.

Supporting employers to harness the skills and enthusiasm of the next generation of sustainability professionals.



UrbanBuzz Project Clusters



“Regeneration” projects zone

- VIBAT London – impact of transportation on climate change
- Emerging sustainability-related policies - report
- CLOVIS – sustainability stakeholder governance
- Fresh Eyes for Urban Regeneration
- Metricity – new density measurement methods
- Sustainable Training – for planners.
- SCREAM – planning for urban media screens
- ESP-sim – self-procurement housing and communities



Transport and climate change

PROJECT PROFILES [VISIONING AND BACKCASTING FOR TRANSPORT IN LONDON \(VIBAT LONDON\)](#)

The low carbon transport challenges ahead

London's transport emission reduction targets can only be achieved through a combination of behavioural change, technological innovation and robust policy implementation. The VIBAT project highlights the options

Visioning and Backcasting for Transport in London

Project
Visioning and Backcasting for Transport in London (VIBAT LONDON)
Project coordinator
Dr Robin Hickman, Halcrow
Project partners
Halcrow, Oxford University, Space Syntax, Transport for London, Greater London Authority
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www.vibat.org
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With transport highlighted as the sector that contributes least to CO₂ emission reduction targets, the VIBAT London study is exploring ways in which carbon emissions in the capital can be reduced in line with policy aspirations.

The project team has outlined various policy pathways aimed at reducing transport CO₂ emissions. A target of 60 per cent reduction in transport-related carbon emissions by 2025 has been set, based on London's policy framework, and the team has 'backcast' from 2025 to the present day, outlining the steps that London planners, policy makers and citizens need to take from now on if the target is to be met.

A critical issue, notes the team, will be successfully communicating and selling future lifestyle choices to stakeholders and the public.

TC-SIM: options for action

The team has developed an interactive computer simulation game for transport and carbon called TC-SIM, which allows users to explore the policy pathways and their implementation at various levels of intensity; low, medium and high. The policy packages include both 'DIY' options such as choosing to walk or

cycle, and policy interventions such as the introduction of road pricing regimes.

TC-SIM can be played in different user modes: as a 'free rider', a 'techno optimist', an 'enviro-optimist' or a 'complacent car addict', and there is also a free role. The idea is that scenario testing via the game will highlight the willingness of various sectors of the public, based on their perceived identities, to engage with the policy agenda.

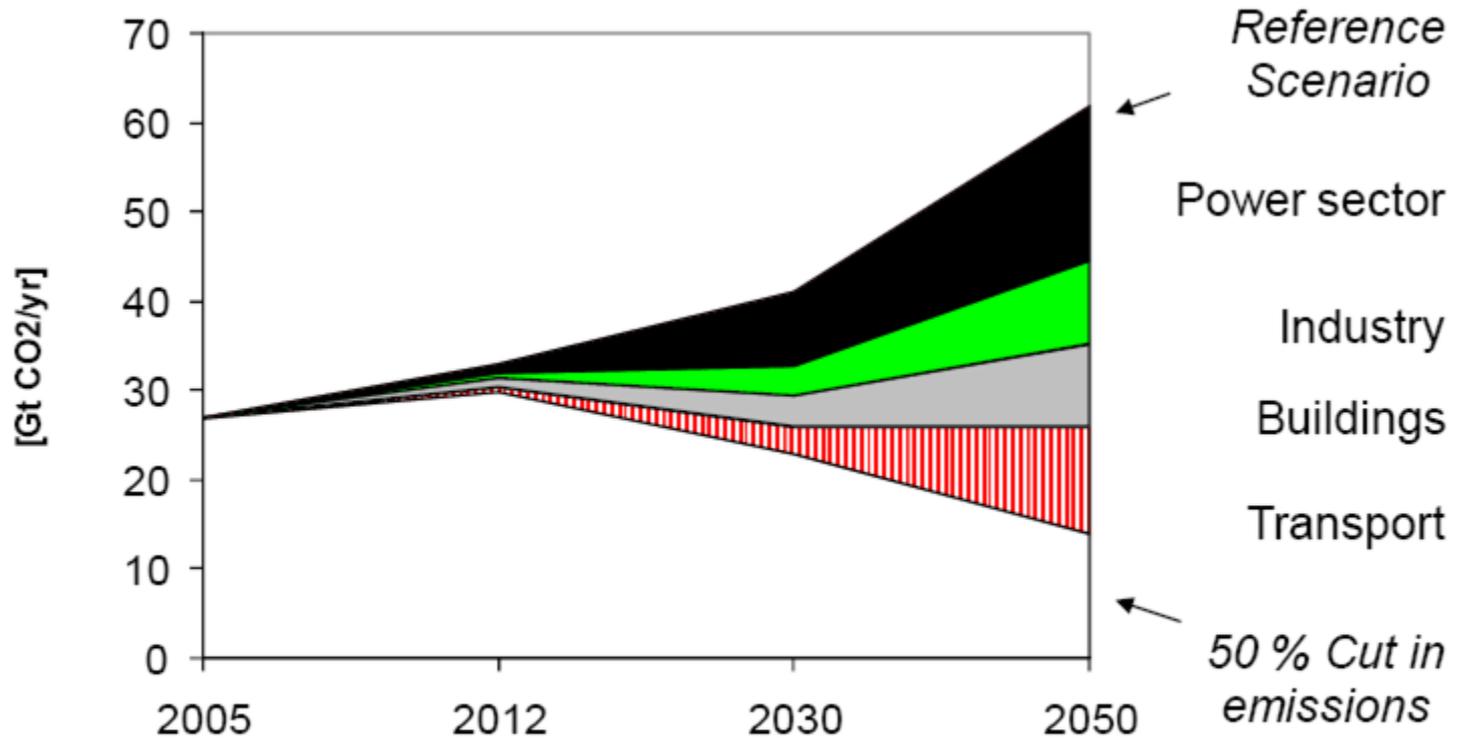
The emissions are around 44 MtCO₂ (million tonnes of carbon dioxide) per annum, comparatively low because of the city's well-used public transport network. The highest emitters are found in car-dependent suburbs – Bromley, Bexley, Barnet and Hillingdon. But despite London's relative advantage, there is still a huge gap between 'business as usual' (BAU) projections and emissions reduction targets.

'Achieving large reductions in carbon emissions, whilst retaining economic and quality of life goals, is likely to be difficult,' says project coordinator Robin Hickman, Halcrow. 'Add in the city's large population and planned economic growth, and the task of reducing aggregate emissions becomes very ambitious.'

The team has developed an interactive computer simulation game for transport and carbon (TC-SIM), allowing users to explore potential policy pathways and their implementation at various levels of intensity – low, medium and high...



A New Energy Revolution: The Carbon Challenge



Improved efficiency and decarbonizing the power sector could bring emissions back to current levels by 2050. To achieve a 50% cut we would also have to revolutionize the transport sector.

Debating the potential of urban big screens

Can the predominantly commercial use of outdoor screens be broadened to include art and community engagement? The SCREAM project explores the impact of big screens on our urban public spaces

Large projection displays are becoming more and more pervasive in urban spaces.

However.....

currently there is no methodology for designing display walls as an integral part of the built environment.

Project
SCREAM
Project coordinator
 Ava Fatah gen. Schieck
Project partners
 UCL, [body>data>space](#), [Art2architecture](#)
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Big screens are appearing in squares and on building facades across the UK. Both the screens and the content they display take many forms – movies, news, city information and, of course, commercials. This projects aims to place big screens in context and to explore the ways in which they affect our experiences of the public spaces they occupy.

'The use of these screens will bring new potential and challenges for city regulators, artists, architects, urban designers, producers, broadcasters and advertisers,' says project coordinator Ava Fatah gen. Schieck. 'We are just beginning to understand their potential for public information, art and community engagement. We need to see more negotiation between commercial, public and cultural interests.'

There is currently very little information in the public domain relating to the set-up of big screens. Who can put up a screen? What policy and regulation governs the content to show? How loud or bright they can be? 'I've been trying to collect information about the screens in 'Live Sites' 2012, and it's very difficult to contact the officers concerned, or to track down the planning applications or consents.'

Beginning a dialogue, and creating a debate, between the parties concerned is the key driver of the SCREAM project. 'We're creating a database of those working in this area,' says gen. Schieck.

'We will hold two workshops later in the autumn to bring artists, planners and local policy makers together to debate and discuss the issues. We need to understand how screen technology can be implemented and to establish potential funding models.' ✨



Key points

Big screens are becoming an issue for public debate. The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) recently suggested that the 2012 'Live Sites' giant screens project will have a serious impact on the public space of many towns and cities in the UK

Two workshops will be held later in the autumn to bring artists, planners and local policy makers together to debate and discuss the issues involved with big screens

Conclusions will be presented in a report, and workshop outcomes presented at the Urban Screen 2008 Conference in Melbourne, Australia, in October

A postgraduate module on urban screens is being prepared, to be converted into an online module which will be available to all

Location and mobility

Las Vegas:
signs were designed to attract on different level:

- on an eye level,
- on a car level and,
- to be seen from the highway.



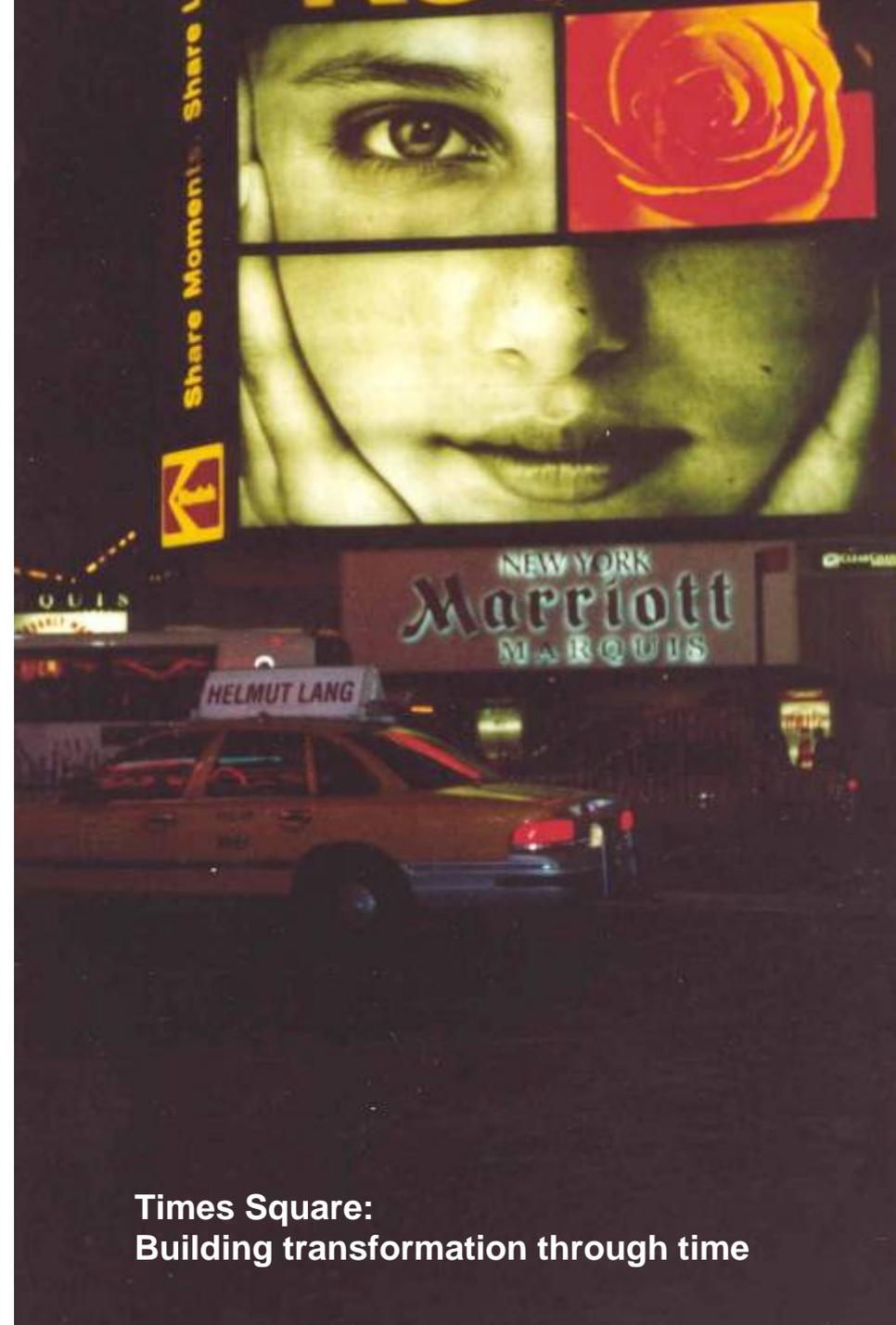
displays as part of our daily environment



Challenge ahead:

to develop strategies which managed the impact on the public space of many towns and cities in the UK

CABE concern over 2012 Olympics 'live sites'...



Current Housing Crisis

- An idea whose time has arrived?

- rapid design and procurement

- can be made to comply with any code level for Sustainable Homes

Community building for all

The ESP-sim project set out to define a viable model of Enabled Self Procurement for the UK, and to create a virtual world for testing and progressing the concepts

Project

Enabled Self Procurement simulation

Project coordinators

Michael Kohn, Slider Studio
Joanne Harrison, UEL

Project partners

Slider Studio, UEL, audacity, BURA, Design for Homes, LTGDC, Mae LLP, Meganexus, RIBA competitions, HTA, UCL, Three Dragons consultancy, Alastair Donald

Websites

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Sustainable communities are at the top of the UK's social, economic and political agendas. Enabled Self Procurement (ESP) is an idea for embedding sustainability into community design by giving its future residents much greater input into design, build and planning options.

Essentially, it means bringing together an 'enabling' developer, a set of community-wide design codes and a series of customisable 'pattern books' for individual home designs. Potential community members simply select a plot and a home design and negotiate fees according to the 'enabled' development model.

The ESP concept is being tested using bespoke virtual world software called YouCanPlan. Developed by Slider Studio with

support from UEL's computing school, YouCanPlan is freely available for anyone wishing to explore or join the community. To populate the virtual world, currently modelled on a typical 40 dwellings per hectare suburban scheme, ten winners were chosen from an RIBA-supported open design competition for 'pattern book' housing designs. These have now been integrated into the online model along with roads and landscaping.

How the process works

Within the ESP-sim YouCanPlan community, urban design codes determining which designs can be built on which plots are written into the system software. Users can choose a plot and a

Users can simply choose a plot and a pattern book design to go with it, view designs that the neighbours may have submitted, and customise the design within the parameters allowed

UrbanBuzz... fuelling the debate...

Eco towns...

...social housing

Procurement....

ESP-sim can help...

Is the UK's house-building model bust beyond repair?

'Building Design'

10 October 2008

Yes, says Tim Williams, the model was not producing enough homes even before the credit crunch; while John Slaughter argues that it was on a trajectory to deliver more

Yes



Tim Williams

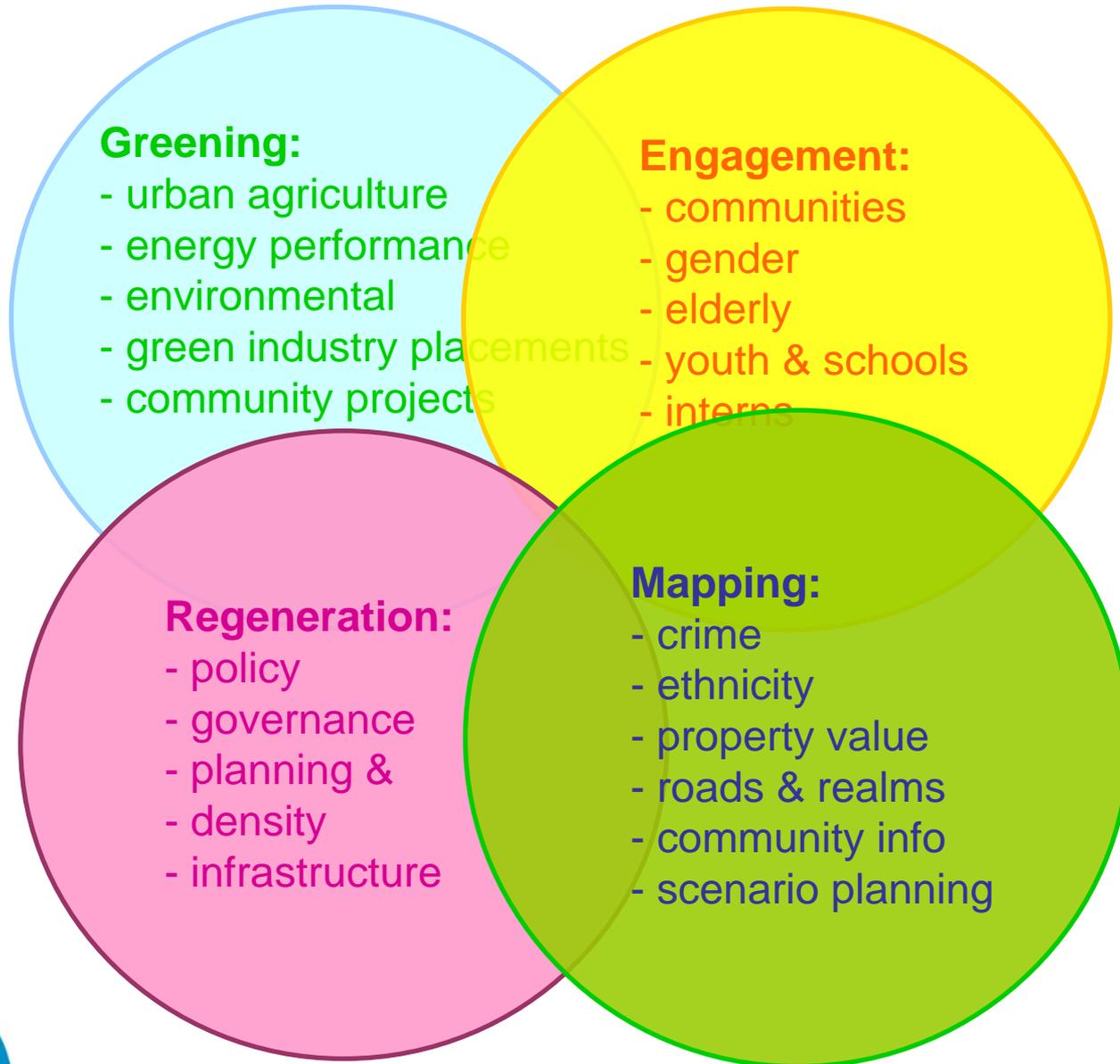
Director, Navigant
Consulting

The financial crisis should not be used to convince us that when we turn the taps back on, the current house-building model will deliver the numbers and quality we want.

It won't. Housebuilders were in trouble before the credit crunch. In 2006, we delivered 200,000 private and public homes, but by 2007 we were down to 175,000 because that model could not deliver the numbers.

Households are forming in England at a rate of 223,000 a year. If 80,000 homes are delivered by the end of 2008, the gap grows exponentially. By spring 2009, we will have gaping hole in housing delivery.

UrbanBuzz Project Clusters



“Mapping” projects zone

- **i-VALUL** – intangible values of Urban Layout
- **EASY** – capturing cultural changes
- **MCSC** – mapping change for sustainable communities
- **SEDUC** – social disorder and urban configuration
- **SSSP** – spatial simulation systems



“The stakes are high.

Every individual unaccounted for equates to £1.7k/p.a on PCT grant funding.

Thus if ONS predictions are just 15,000 people short that amounts to £25m/year”

A new view on population estimates

A new model delivers accurate and up to date estimates of future population levels and projected change across the Thames Gateway, based on small area geographies and locally accessed datasets

Project
Evidencing Adaptive Sustainability (EASY)
Project coordinator
Professor Allan Brimicombe, UEL
Project partners
UEL, UCL, Terra Cognita, Thames Gateway London Partnership
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In May 2008, MPs called on the Government to ‘improve the population count as a matter of urgency’. According to Sir Michael Fallon MP, chairman of the Commons Treasury Select Committee, ‘it is now impossible to accurately estimate the UK population.’

The project is looking at precisely this issue: quality estimates of population levels and projected change across the Thames Gateway that can be carried out by local analysts using administrative data. ‘There are some fundamental differences across official statistics,’ says project leader Professor Allan Brimicombe.

‘Our purpose is not to say that any particular source of official statistics is inadequate, but simply to say that we have a new view.’

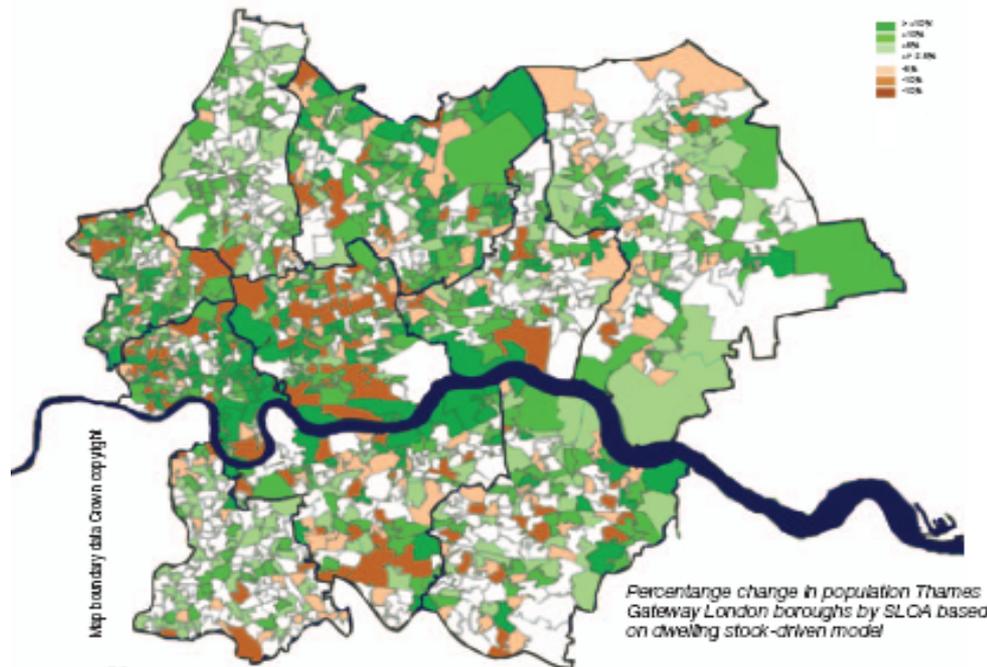
What’s hanging in the balance, he adds, is accurate population estimates on which to base social infrastructure planning. The Community Infrastructure Levy comes into play next year, alongside the current Section 106 arrangements (planning agreements that encourage developers to provide community benefits). Revenue for Boroughs is best accessed via a social infrastructure plan based on evidence-based population projections.

The stakes are high. Data on population change is crucial to the boroughs and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) because funding relates to population. Every individual unaccounted for equates to approximately £1,700 per annum, according to one PCT manager. Roughly speaking, if Office of National Statistics (ONS) projections are around 15,000 people short, a PCT could lose more than £25 million a year.

A model for evidencing population change

The EASY team has developed a robust model for obtaining up-to-the moment population estimates from locally held data at small area geographies – sub-ward lower super output areas (LSOA) of around 1,500 households. The first stage of the work has focused on models for population change, but a key focus for the second phase, led by UCL’s Dr Sue Batty, will be the legislative and regulatory environment within which the new approach can be applied to social infrastructure planning.

Working with project partner Thames Gateway London Partnership, models for 11 Boroughs in east London have been created. ‘We don’t intend to sit on our population change models,’ says Brimicombe. ‘They will be available to whoever wishes to use them.’



Putting community engagement on the map

From fond memories to local trouble spots, communities across London are using community mapping projects to focus on connections, common interests and planning for change

Project

Mapping Change for Sustainable Communities

Project coordinator

Dr Muki Haklay, UCL

Project partners

UCL, London 21, LSx, Community Environment Associates, Planning Aid for London

Website

<http://communitymaps.london21.org>

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The Mapping Change for Sustainable Communities project sprang from the idea that communities need to feel more connected to the changes happening across the Thames Gateway. 'An online community map pinpointing local organisations, major project sites and project details would, we felt, create opportunities for organisations to find one another and understand more about local development plans,' says project coordinator Dr Muki Haklay from UCL.

The mapping concept was rooted in an online 'Green Map', developed by London 21. Locals from three communities across greater London created their own maps during a series of workshops and mapping skills sessions. To get the maps started, the team worked hard to open up communications with local groups. Using hands-on methods ranging from walking tours, recording emotional responses to locations, sketches, photographs and noise

meter readings, the groups gathered information for their maps. Technology took a back seat; discussion, stories and ideas came first. 'Throw away the computer and involve people with paper mapping,' says London 21's Louise Francis. 'Set up accessible projects with paper and pens, then go on to digitise the material.'

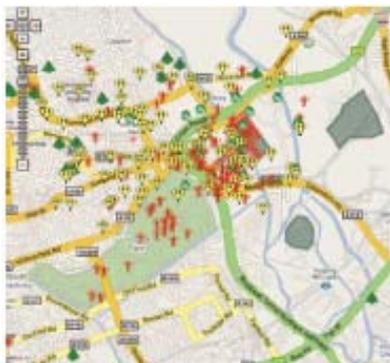
Maps for specific community interests

It became clear that each group had its own interests and needed its own map. In the Royal Docks, it was noise. In Archway, it was traffic. A major concern for the Hackney Wick group was the massive changes brought about by the Olympics development. The community chose to create a heritage map 'to bring out all our past memories and keep them alive', said one resident. 'I love Hackney, and remembering how it used to be when we were young. We can't undo change, but we can try not to lose our highlights.'

The Rev Gualter De Mello, Community of Reconciliation And Fellowship, took part in the Hackney Wick mapping project. 'Making the map enabled us to see some focal points where the community needed support,' he says. 'The population of Hackney Wick has changed greatly over the past few years. Mapping our community has been a very positive exercise, helping us to find and access new groups that are coming up in the area. Many people around here use the online map and ask me about it.'

Rev De Mello is now hoping to begin a new mapping project in south Hackney. 'We offer technical help and guidance, but locals are leading on these projects,' says Haklay. Once created, they can update and add new content to their maps, which are hosted by London 21.

Action pack being produced – aimed at communities – to be published by London 21



A group of community mappers gets to work

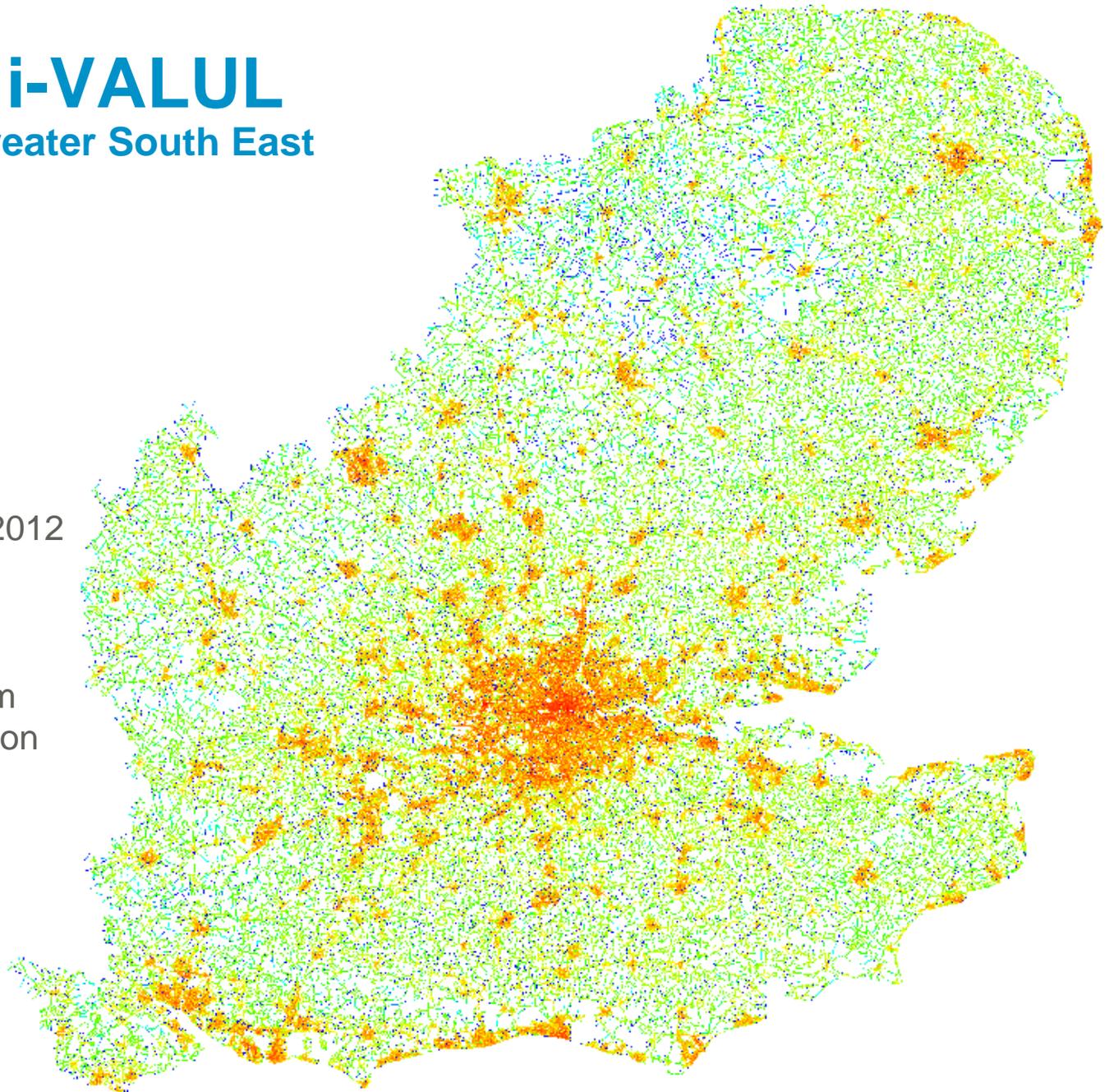


Project: i-VALUL

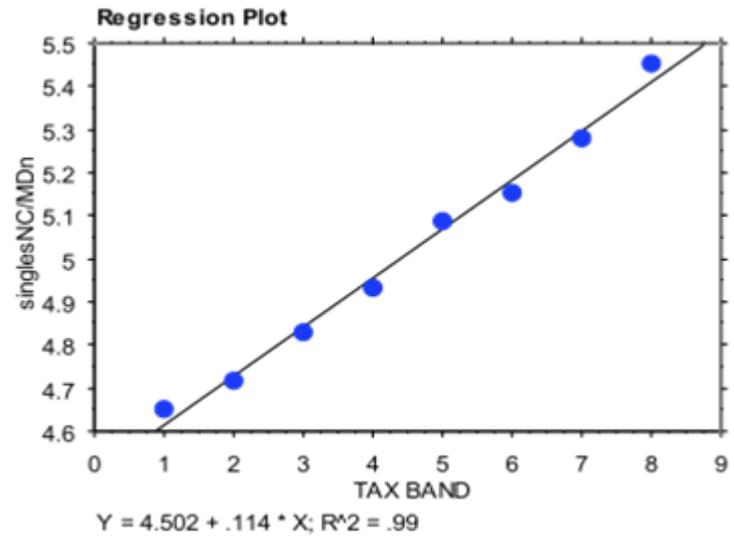
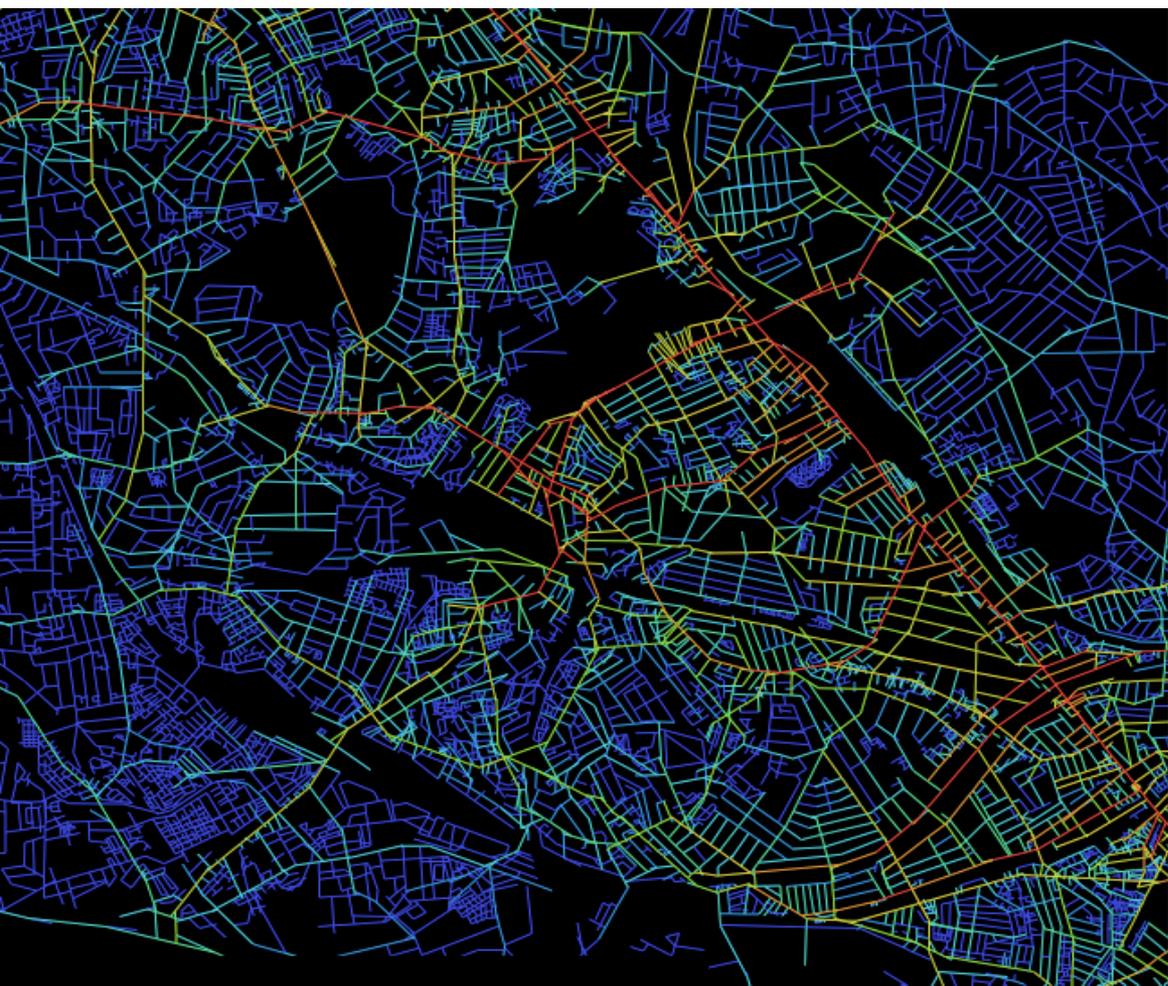
Layout Map Greater South East

Partners:

UCL, UEL
LB Croydon
LB Tower Hamlets
Sustainable London 2012
Housing Corporation
Dept. for Health
London 21
Better Archway Forum
The Princes Foundation
Savills
Buchanan
JMP
EDAW
Skanska

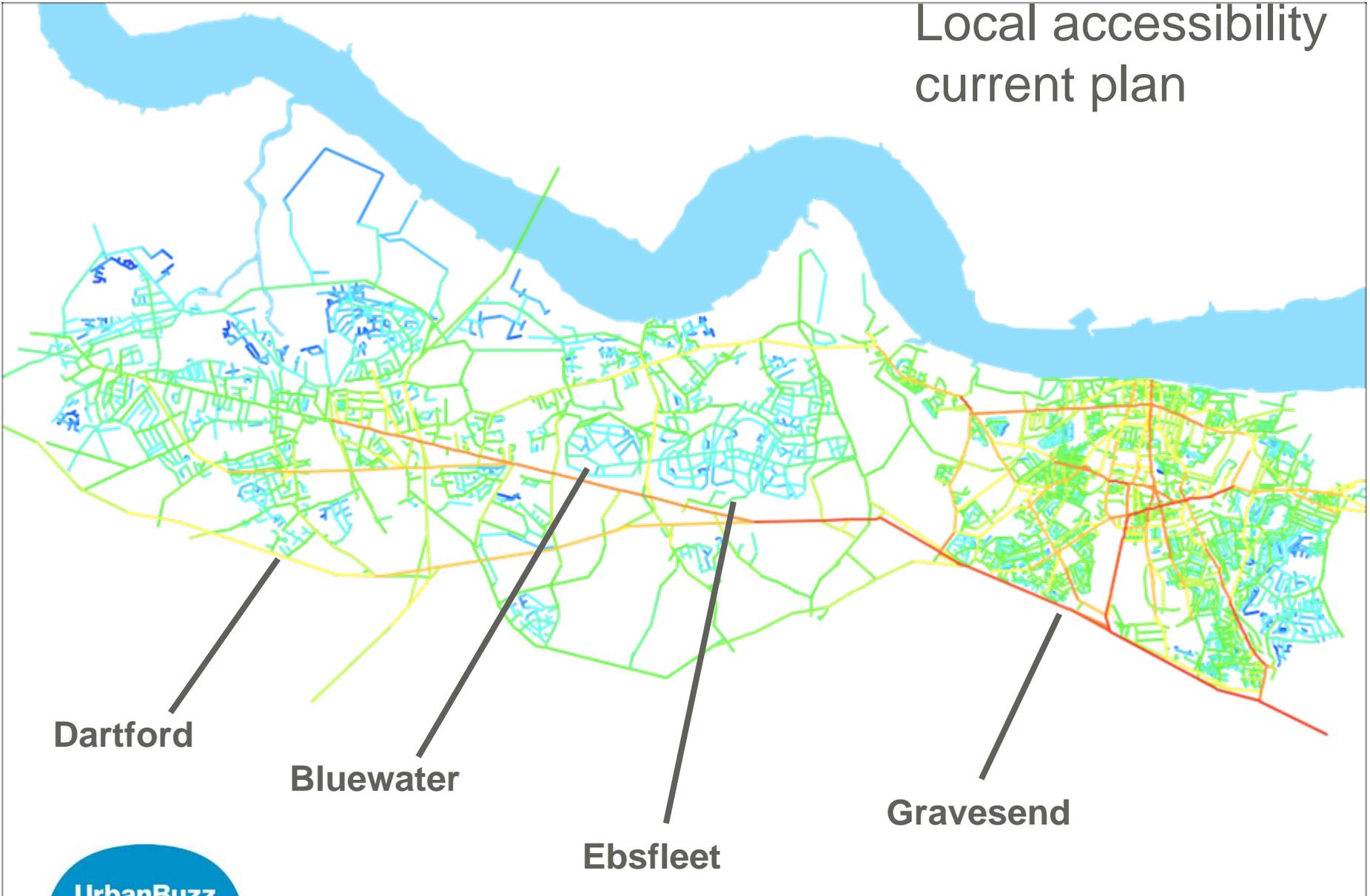


Property values (by tax band) and accessibility



Ebsfleet is designed to be isolated locally

Local accessibility
current plan



Dartford

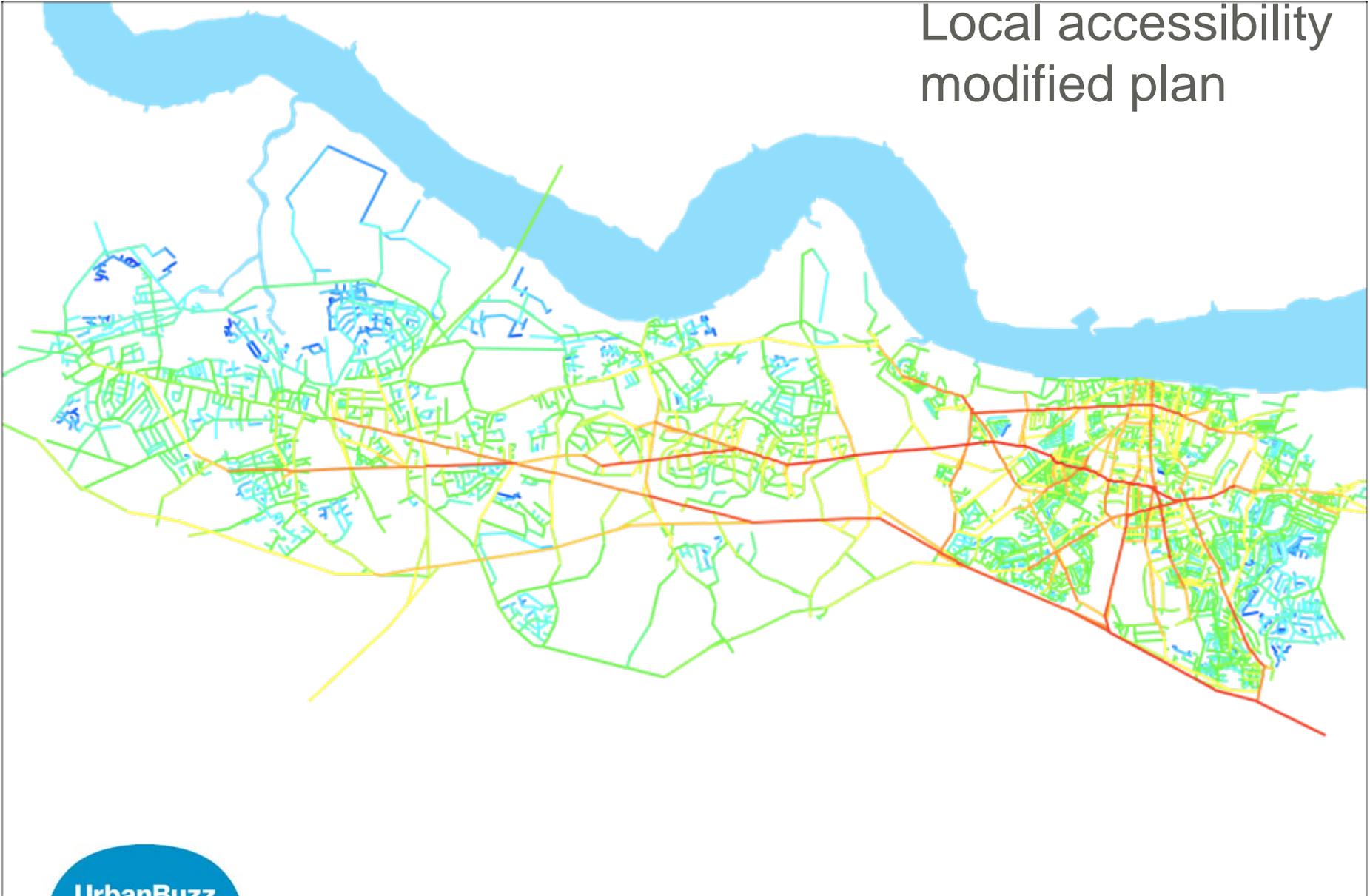
Bluewater

Ebsfleet

Gravesend

Relatively simple modifications have a big effect...

Local accessibility
modified plan



Thank You