

The aim of this report

To form a vision for what cities should look like in 30 years' time, and set out a framework to help turn this vision into a future reality.

To reimagine the urban economy and built environment, setting out what the future purpose of a city would be if we were able to radically transform it.

Future cities... the challenges

The context is that our cities currently face four major (and interlinked) challenges:

Climate change and biodiversity loss

Cities are hugely important in the fight against climate change.

- Produce more than 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions, while accounting for less than 2% of the Earth's surface.

Cities are also more likely to suffer from the consequences of climate change. They are more likely to get warmer (due to the urban heat island effect), raising the prospect of more heat-related deaths, and coastal cities could be affected by sea levels rising and coastal flooding.

Economic and technological change

- Globalisation pushing some urban jobs and industries overseas (ultimately to be replaced by others).
- Digital connectivity disrupted how urban centres have been used to shop
- Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies this presents opportunities with new industries and new jobs, but also challenges, with some existing jobs and industries becoming increasingly irrelevant.

Inequity and social injustice

Just as cities are places of enormous opportunity, they are also places of inequity, poverty and deprivation.

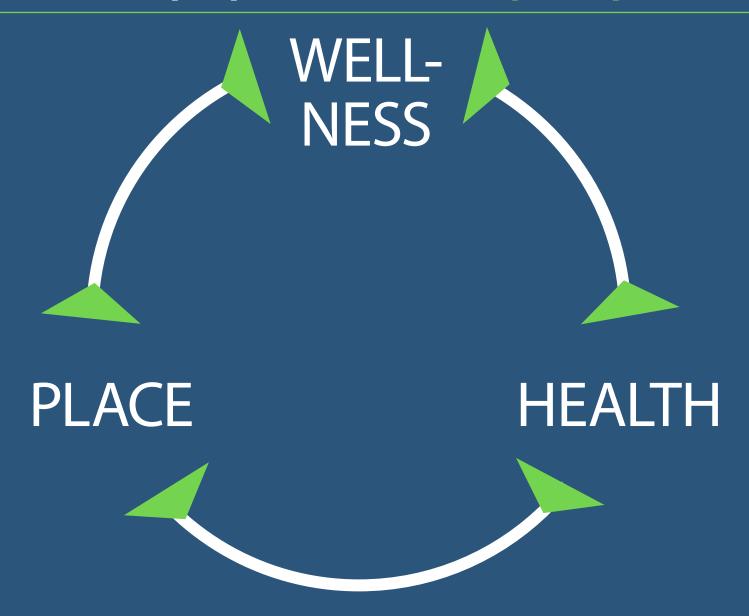
 It has been estimated that if deprivation levels in the Key Cities and Core Cities matched the UK average,
3.3 million fewer people would be living in deprived neighbourhoods.

All of the other major challenges listed here are significantly amplified for the poor and for many groups and minorities.

- Poor health

- 20% higher risk of developing depression for those who live in urban areas
- Air pollution kills tens of thousands of people each year: 40 UK towns or cities exceeding WHO air pollution limits
- People's self-reported loneliness increases by 2.8% for every additional 1000 housing units within 1km
- More generally, the population is ageing which presents major challenges for health and social care provision.

We shape places and they shape us



A framework for the city in 2050



PURPOSE

Actively foster innovation, productivity and social consciousness and address the climate and ecological crises.



KEY CONDITION

The 'Health First' principle prioritises good mental, physical and social health. Improve areas that directly impact health.



ATTRACTIVE / ACCESSIBLE / ADAPTIVE

PRINCIPLES

Cities must be Attractive and Accessible to people in the widest sense, and Adaptive and resilient in an uncertain world.



FOR ALL

FOUNDATION PRINCIPLE

Cities must leave no one behind, the essence of community and civilised society.



