

Sustainability, Community and Urban Regeneration: Key Findings From Paddington and Salford



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Introduction

- n Characterising urban policy
- n Draw on the findings of our research in Paddington (London) and Salford Quays
- n Identify key themes for the planning and regeneration of urban areas
- n Questions of community involvement



Community Involvement

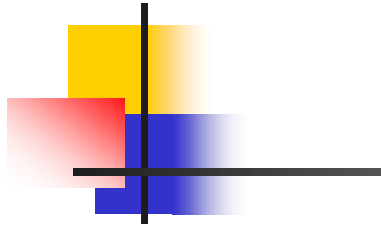
n 4 themes:

- n Time-frames, expectations, and aspirations
- n Planning for sustainable communities – thinking through questions of balance
- n Communication and inclusion
- n Role of experts in the planning process



Characterising (Sustainable) Urban Regeneration

- n Area-based and/or holistic?
- n Fluctuating rationalities (economic development, sustainable communities etc)
- n Cycles of policy and the assumptions of failure (Cochrane, 2007)
- n Now an elision of rationalities – the *Creative Class Thesis* (Florida, 2004)
- n Role of experts in the planning process



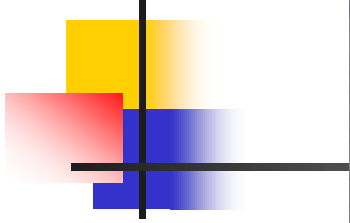


Our Research

- n Focus on Paddington and Salford Quays
- n Both:
 - n Flagship projects
 - n Long development histories
 - n Coming together of social, economic, and environmental innovations
- n Over 100 interviews conducted with range of actors + business survey + focus groups + archival work

















CAUTION
GATE CLOSES
AFTER 10 SECONDS
DO NOT
SOUND YOUR
HORN
AS GUARDS
CANNOT HEAR





Time Frames, Aspirations, and Expectations

- n The politics of time:
 - n Multiple time-frames, imaginations and power
 - n The new 'aspirational politics'
 - n 'Meeting expectations'
 - n Up-streams and down-streams of decision-making



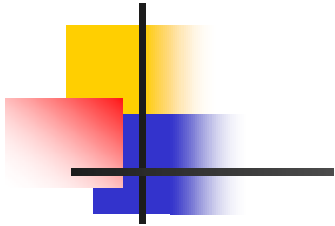
Planning for Sustainable Communities – Infrastructure and Balance

- n Conceptualising community change and 'balance' in the regeneration process
- n Balance increasingly used to justify 'gentrification' policies
- n Could be used to think about:
 - n Social infrastructure
 - n Range of different housing types
 - n Thought given to employment
 - n How the process should be managed/governed



Communication and Inclusion

- n Who/what is communication for?
- n The role of (representative) local authorities
- n Arnstein's 'ladder of participation'
- n Different groups 'talked past each other'
- n Communities were not 'blindly resistant' to change – particularly liked environmental improvements
- n But also felt sense of powerlessness – words like 'inevitable', 'they...'
- n Both new *and* existing communities



Citizen control
Delegated power
Partnership
Placation
Consultation
Informing
Therapy
Manipulation

Degree of
Citizen Power

Degree of
Tokenism

Non
participation



Role of Experts in the Planning Process

- n Vital role to play
- n 'Political awareness'?
- n Need to recognise alternative 'values'
- n Tendency to translate terms – such as 'sustainability' and 'community' – through own (existing) fields of knowledge
- n Techniques such as language-use, ways of dressing, and feedback
- n But experts cannot do everything!



Conclusions

- n The changing character of urban policy and urban regeneration
- n The politics of time
- n Processes of communication
- n Expanding alternatives – bringing together different knowledges?