

USING URBAN FORESIGHT TECHNIQUES IN CITY VISIONING: LESSONS FROM THE READING 2050 VISION

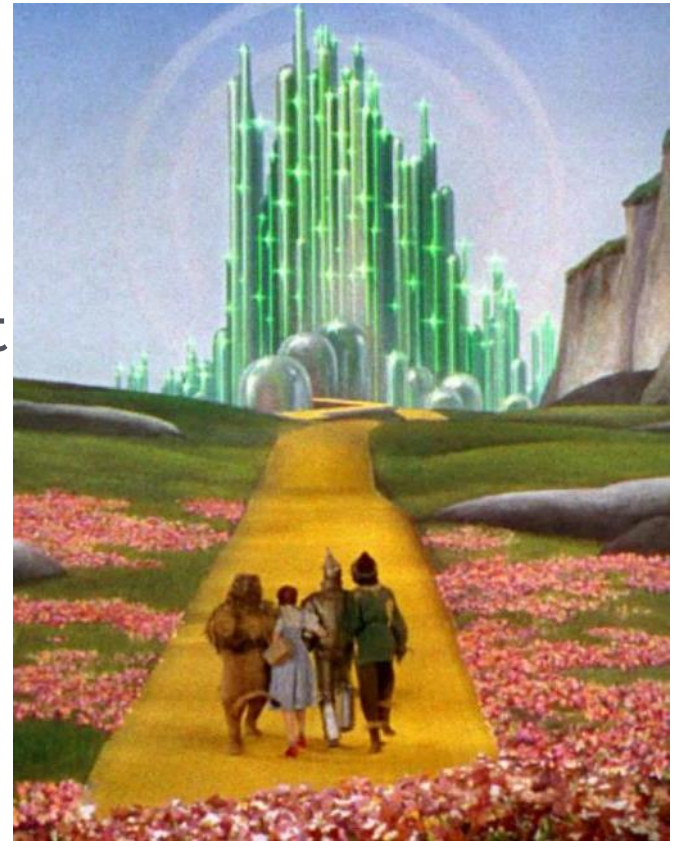
Tim Dixon and Lorraine Farrelly (University of Reading)
Nigel Horton-Baker (Reading UK CIC)
Jenni Montgomery (Barton Willmore)

FORMAT

- Introduction and why did we do it?
- How did we do it?
- What does the vision look like?
- A future urban room
- Conclusions

WHY DO WE NEED VISIONS?

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



the Bristol



Bristol's S



GREENEST CITY

MILTON KEYNES: MAKING A GREAT CITY GREATER



SUMMARY

Milton Keynes Futures 2050 Commission

The full report is available online at www.mkfutures2050.com



NEWCASTLE CITY FUTURES 2065

ANCHORING UNIVERSITIES IN URBAN REGIONS THROUGH CITY FORESIGHT

Mark Tewthorpe-Jones, John Goddard and Paul Cowie

NEWCASTLE CITY FUTURES

Milton Keynes City Futures 2050, funded by the Government Office for Science and supported by Newcastle University, Institute of Urban Futures, as a collaborative engagement project.

Foresight

Newcastle University
Institute for Urban Futures



VISION A GUIDE TO THE

ELBOURNE PLANNING STRATEGY

| | | |
|------|------|------|
| 2023 | 2040 | 2057 |
| 2024 | 2041 | 2058 |
| 2025 | 2042 | 2059 |
| 2026 | 2043 | 2060 |
| 2027 | 2044 | 2061 |

A FIFTY YEAR VISION FOR THE FUTURE -
FUTURE BLISSOM 2011 - 2061
FULL CONSULTATION REPORT



Joburg 2040
Growth and Development Strategy

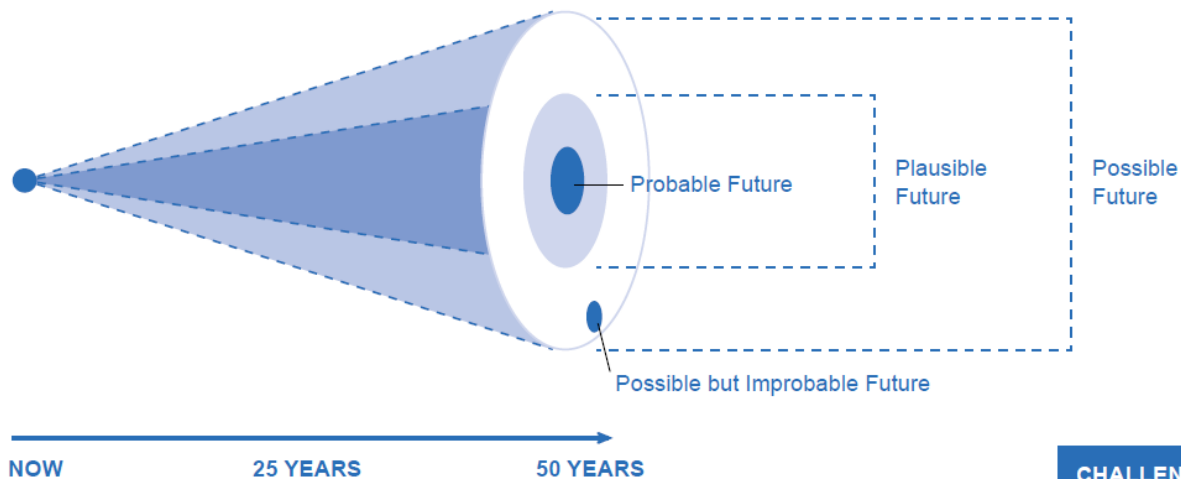


URBAN (CITY) FORESIGHT

“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

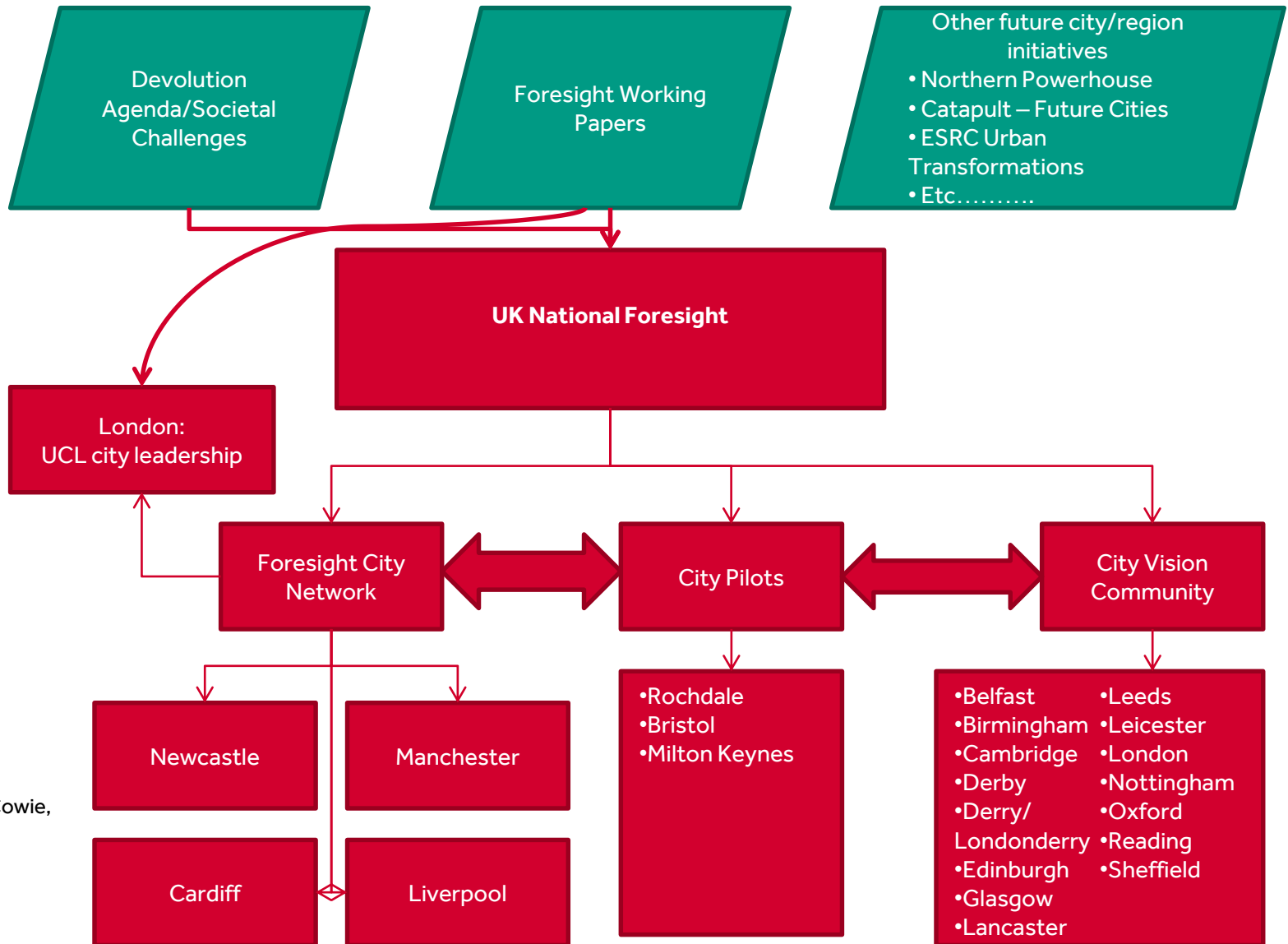
CHALLENGE 2

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

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': URBAN INNOVATION

“Open Innovation 2.0 (OI2) is a new paradigm based on a Quadruple Helix Model 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>)



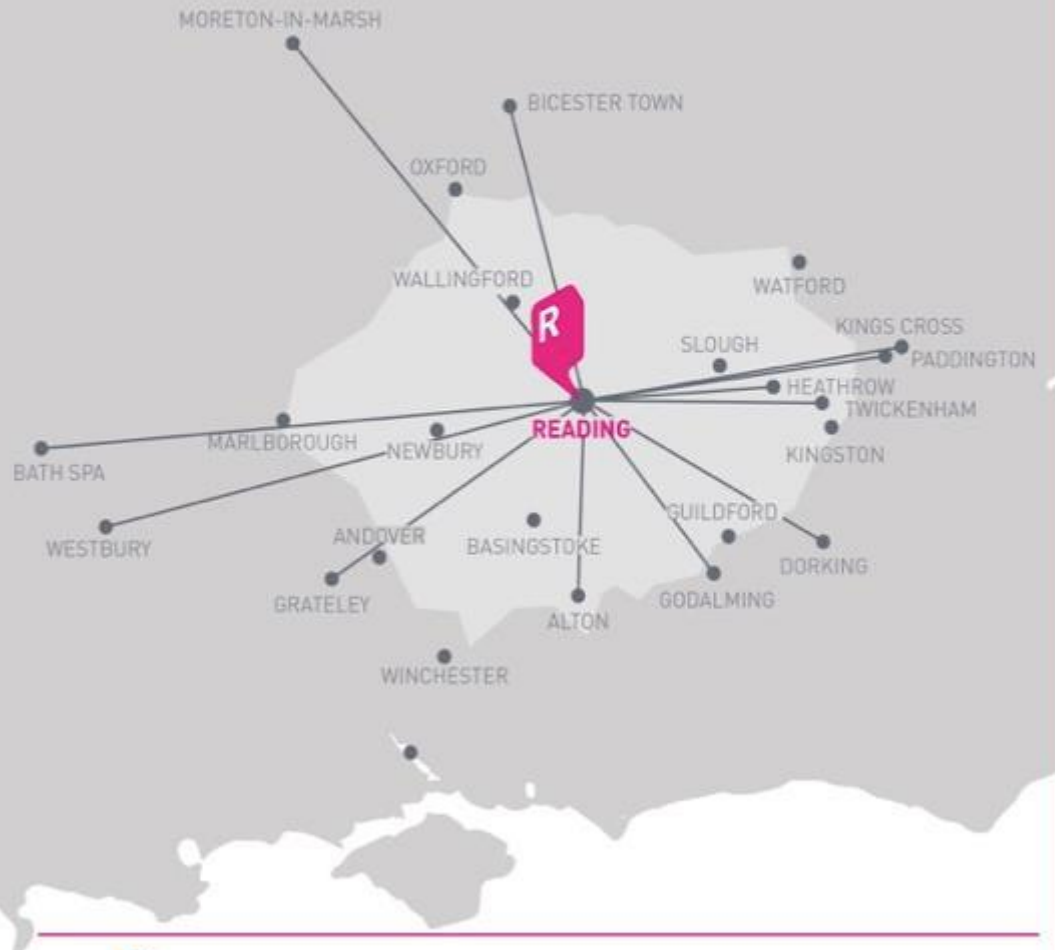
ROLE OF THE 'CIVIC' UNIVERSITY?

- Anchor institutions
- Place leadership role
- City visions (co-production and wider co-creation)
- Economic weight and influence: trusted institutions?

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)

READING (GREATER READING)

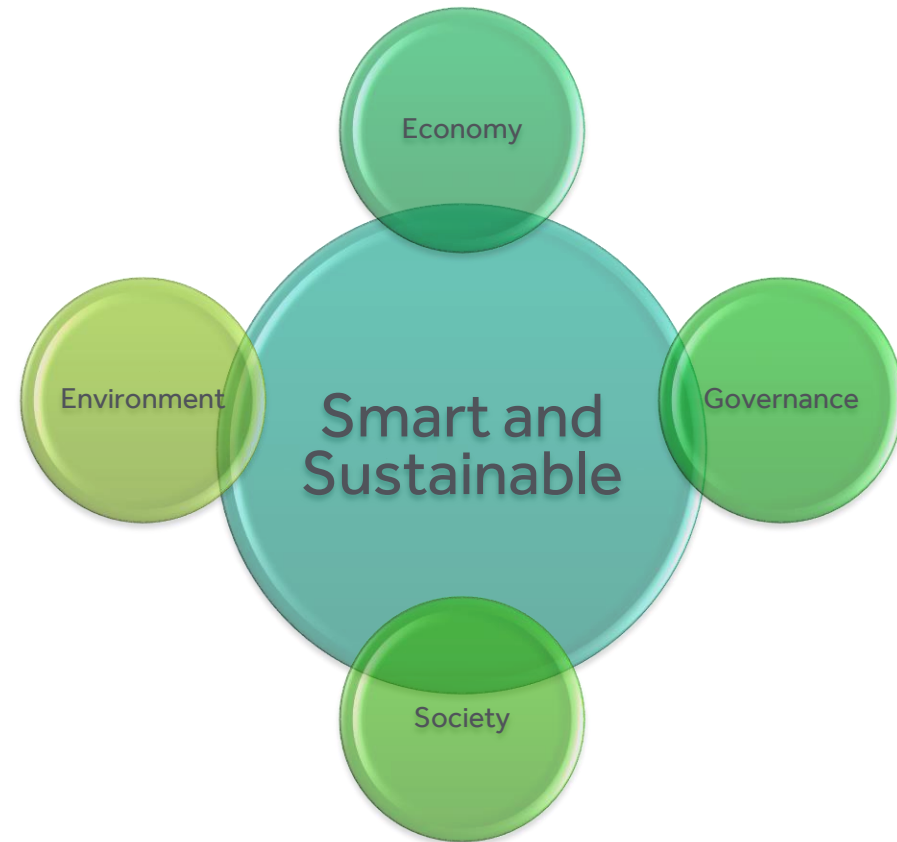


- Geographic focus & varying definitions
- Reading/Wokingham Urban Area (plus Arborfield, Woodley, Theale, Crowthorne, & Earley)
- Population: 318,014 (2011)

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

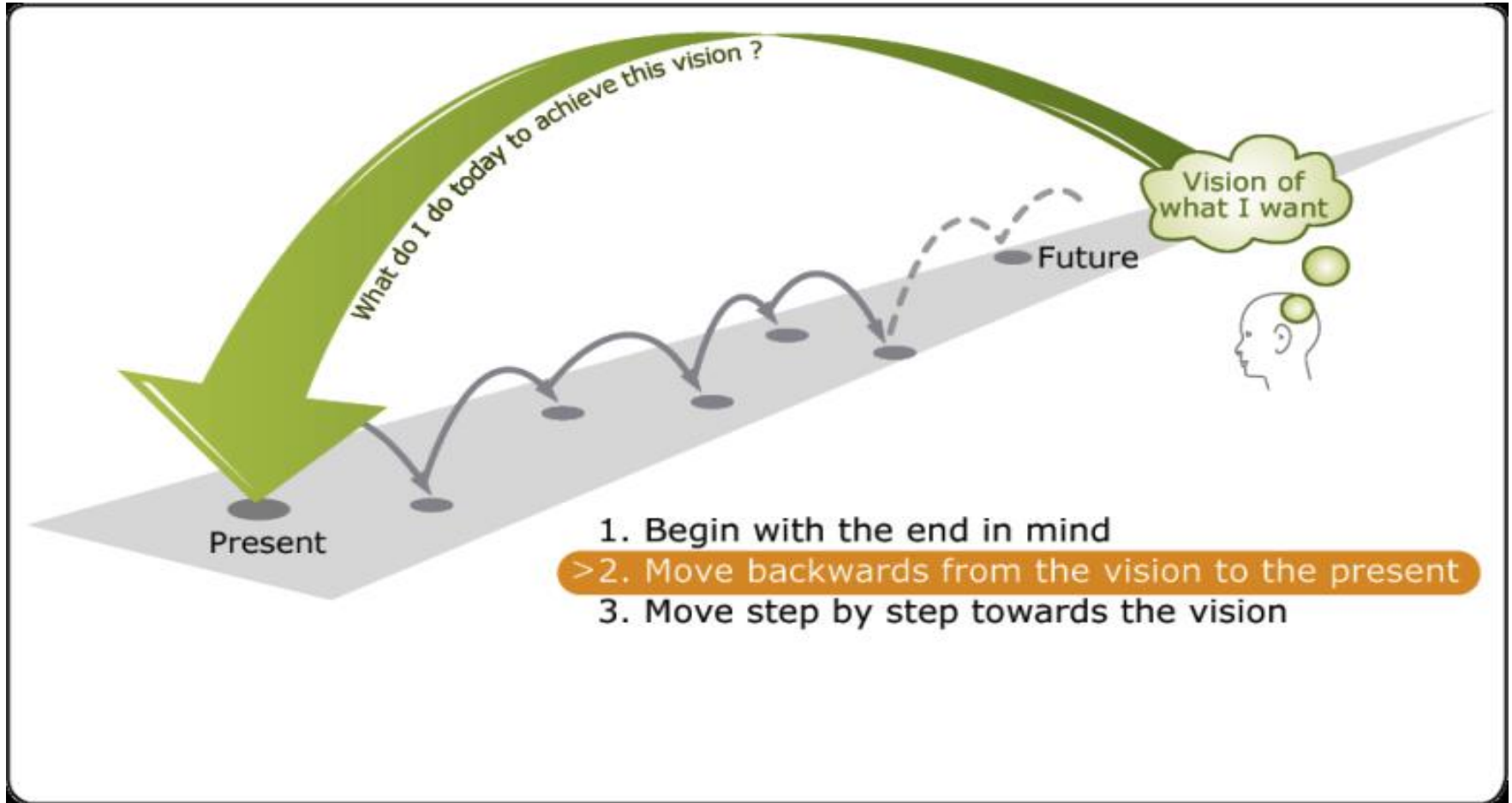


HOW DID WE DEVELOP THE VISION?



STEP INTO READING'S FUTURE

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?



STEP INTO READING'S FUTURE

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.



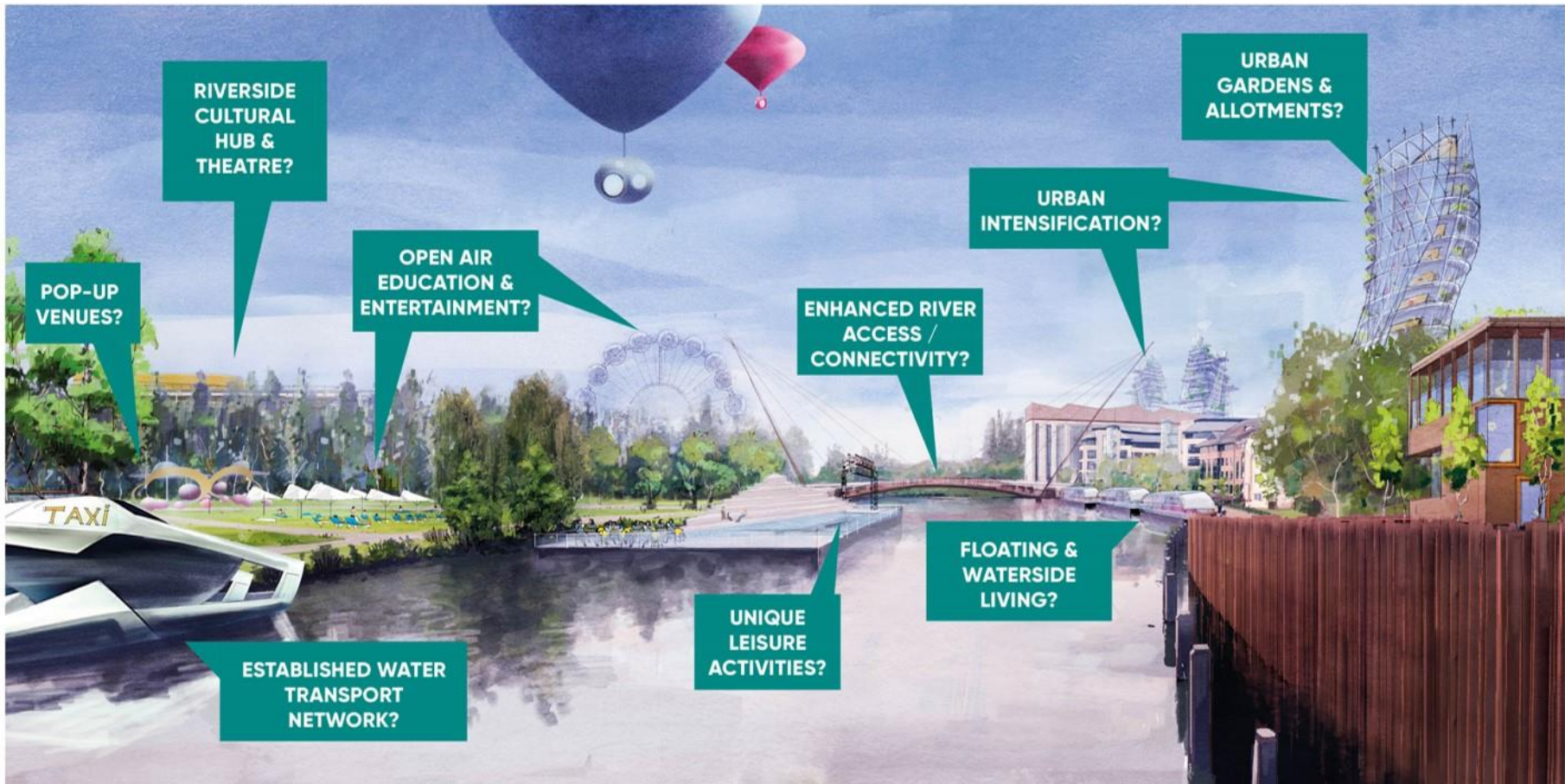
A City of Culture & Diversity

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.



URBAN ROOM: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE OF A PLACE

Every town and city should have
an "URBAN ROOM"



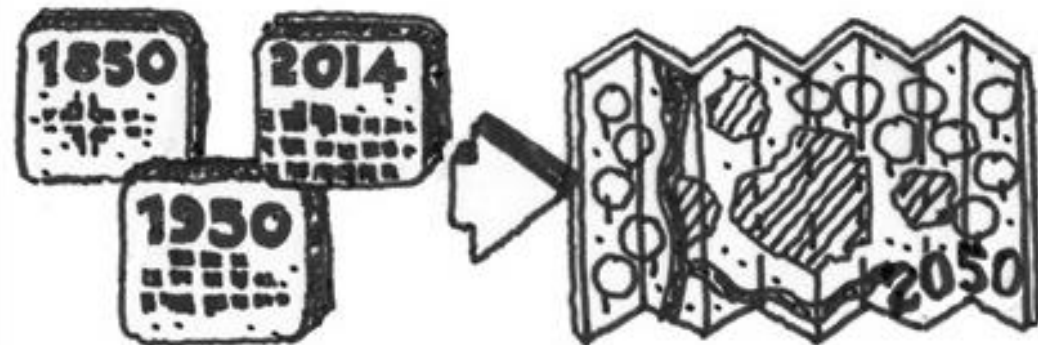
AN EXHIBITION
SPACE



A LEARNING
SPACE



A COMMUNITY
SPACE



EXPLORING OUR PAST ...

... AND PLANNING THE FUTURE!!

URBAN ROOM

Broadway Malyan
3D model of Reading town centre

Canvas for discussion about future
development for students and
community



QUADRUPLE HELIX: READING 2050



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



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



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



- 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...



THANK YOU!

www.reading2050.co.uk

Feature

LOCAL
ECONOMY

Using urban foresight techniques in city visioning: Lessons from the Reading 2050 vision

Local Economy

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Abstract

The emergence of urban (or city) foresight techniques focuses on the need to create coherent city visions to plan and manage for future long-term change and create opportunities for new investment into the local urban economy. This paper reviews the concepts of 'co-created' city visioning and urban foresight, setting this in the context of new and emerging practice and policy in the UK, and elsewhere. The paper critically reviews the development of the vision for a small city (the 'Reading 2050' project, linked to the UK Future of Cities Foresight Programme), and the lessons it holds for visioning, foresight and planning, using the 'quadruple helix' framework as a conceptual lens for analysis.

Keywords

city visions, co-creation, quadruple helix, urban foresight, visioning

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