

# Sustainability in a climate of austerity: responses from UK city- regions

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## **Aim today:**

- ✓ **why focus on city-regional retrofit**
- ✓ **City- regional boundaries and governance**
- ✓ **Retrofit in GM & in Cardiff**
- ✓ **Comparison between the two city-regions**

# Why focus on city-regional retrofit

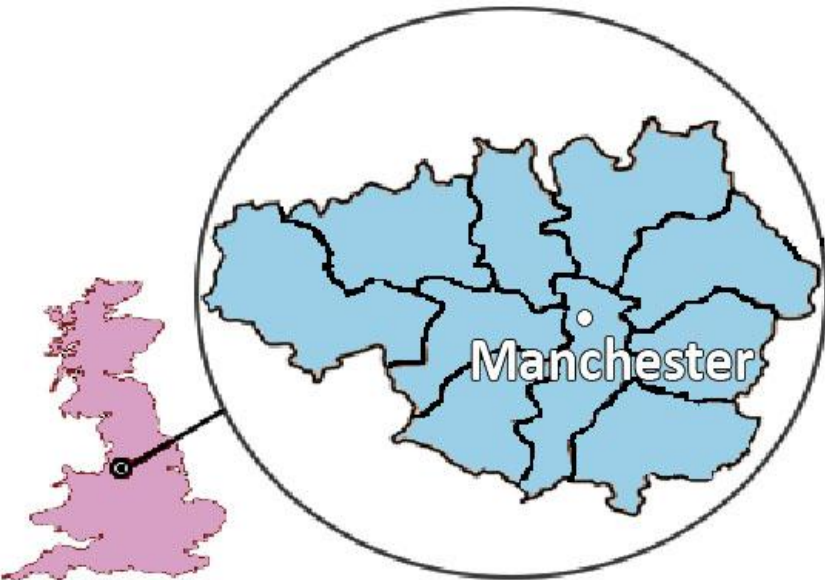
- Retrofit as incremental and disruptive improvement to the existing built environment and infrastructure through a combination of technological and social changes that is critical to the achievement of ambitious carbon reduction targets;
- growing population within urban centers and cities are responsible for 70% of global carbon emission and 75 % of energy consumption make cities a vital part of the retrofitting process;
- Increased concentration of population offers opportunities for scaling up
- cities as 'hub' of innovative social practice and learning for a more sustainable pattern of resource use;
- Pressure for city regional retrofit responses in UK



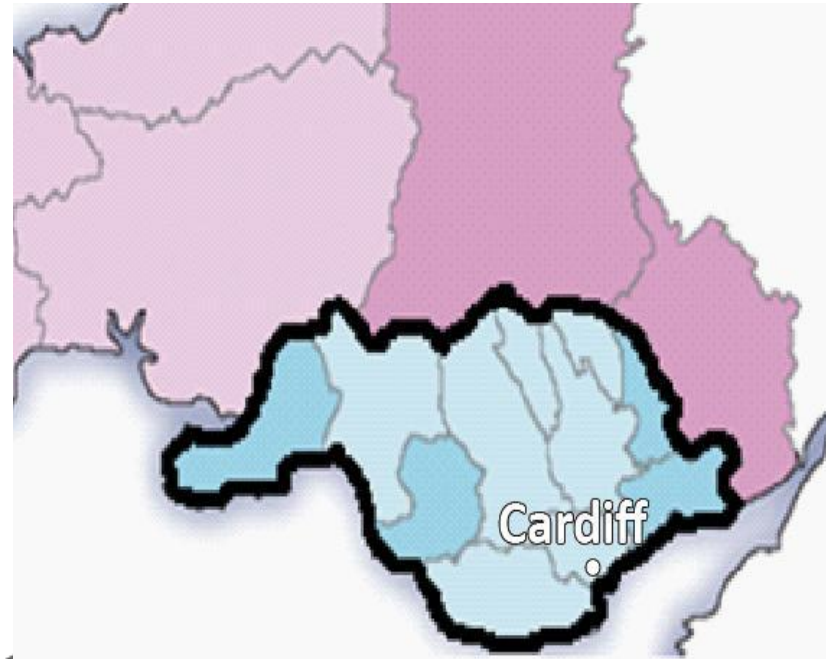
# The two case study regions: boundaries

Re-engineering the City 2020–2050 urban foresight and transition management

## Greater Manchester



## Cardiff City Region



# Governance in the City-regions: Greater Manchester

- GM established in 1974- two tier governing arrangements
- GMCC abolished in 1986; 10 LAs and AGMA
- Statutory City regional Pilot in 2009 & GMCA in 2011
- Emergence of urban growth coalition
- Metropolitan level: political and governing power in hands of agencies and coalitions of political elites and business
- But no elected formal governing structures
- Embedded capacity to act is limited
- National priorities remain an important shaper



# Governance in the City-regions: Cardiff City Region

- Welsh Government

Government of Wales Act 1998 provided two statutory obligations

- inclusive governance & equal opportunities
- requirement to pursue Sustainable Development

- extensive partnership working

- 11 Local authorities

- Collaboration among service providers



# ***Greater Manchester: Retrofitting ON and IN***

- Dominant Urban retrofit
  - A concerted attempt to make retrofit markets
  - Positioning GM as leader in an emerging UK retrofit Market
  - GM Low Carbon Housing Retrofit
    - A framework for addressing the application of bundles of retrofit packages
    - Technology-based responses
    - How to finance it?
    - Creating standards
  - Green Deal
- Community actors
  - Embedded in the local contexts
  - But limited in their achievement
  - Range of motivations
    - Economic Development
    - Sustainability
    - Education
    - Making communities relevant again

# ***Cardiff city-region: Retrofitting as Alternative to National Strategy***

## **Retrofit in the city-region:**

- climate change; low carbon economy goal; fuel poverty

## **Role of WG & LAs:**

- **SD in Wales ‘a central organising principle’**
  - **LAs delivery mechanisms and support from ‘below’**
  - **Historical development of the city-region**
  - **Poor housing quality & hard to treat homes**
- 
- From planned and responsive maintenance programmes
  - to targeted energy efficiency improvements
  - major refurbishment programmes (e.g. ***Arbed***) for retrofitting at scale
- 
- *but focus on social housing and more than 440,000 SW properties in Wales*



# A comparison

Understanding retrofit	Greater Manchester	Cardiff city-region
<b>Drivers and Pressures</b>	A means to position the city-region externally to attract investments <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 'retrofit markets'</li></ul>	A means to deliver SD <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Economic, environmental and social benefits</li></ul>
<b>Governance and cultural context</b>	Emergent metropolitan governance at GM scale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- top down up and less inclusive</li><li>- limited capacity to act and shaped by national priority</li><li>- mainly <i>aspirational</i></li></ul> Grassroots approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- a range of communities and embedded activities</li><li>- tackle issues that are specific to the local context</li><li>- can be piecemeal and isolated</li></ul>	Inclusive governance and partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SD organising principle</li><li>- Governance by government</li><li>- HAs/ RSLs/ LAs /private sector</li></ul>
<b>Social organisation of responses</b>	Ambitious targets and plan to retrofit at scale Driven by businesses and elite politicians <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- hierarchy of responses</li><li>- dominant technological approach</li><li>- raise funding from private and public sector</li></ul> 'cherry picking' Little coordination between the two styles of governance	Area-based approach: Focus is on vulnerable communities and households <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 'targeting the right area first'</li><li>- 'Worst performing stock'</li></ul> Alignment of interests Establishing links with community groups and existing organisations

*Thank you*

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