

Successful City-Suburbs for Successful City-Regions

Agenda Setting Session
July 2007



Successful City-Suburbs Project

Aim to:

1. Test **hypothesis**
2. Address **policy gap** in relation to city-suburbs, providing a view of the current needs and aspirations of those people living and working in city-suburban areas
3. **Raise the profile** of city-suburbs in national (urban) policy
4. Work to provide a **vision and policy for action** for those tasked with shaping suburbs going forward, securing their role as successful, aspirational places within successful cities

Partners and Sponsors

Partners:



Sponsors:



National Context

- Lyons Inquiry
- Barker Review
- Sub-National Review of Economic Development
- City-Regions policy
- GLA suburbs reviews and publications (including new reference in London Plan)
- Eddington Review
- All Party Urban Development Group
- Leitch Review
- etc etc...

Suburbs increasingly on the agenda – now they need to be embedded in wider national economic policy agenda

Successful City-Suburbs – the hypothesis

- Little public policy interest in suburbs, with the focus falling on city centres with New Labour inheriting severe urban centre problems

But...

- For city-regions to remain, or indeed become, successful, they rely as much on quality suburbs as inner city renewal

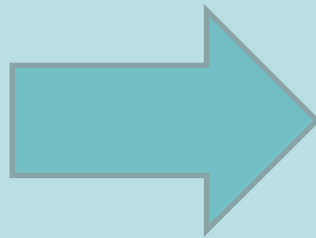
Because...

- City-suburbs attract the most economically productive workforce to cities due to inherent appeal (high quality schools, open space, housing, radial transport connections...)

City-Suburbs – Perception vs Reality

Suburbs have traditionally been seen as:

- Wealthy
- White
- Middle-class
- Old
- Residential only
- Stable (socially and economically)
- Only located on the outer fringe areas of towns and cities



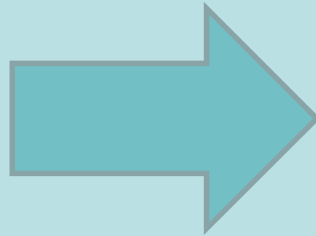
Suburbs are really:

- Everywhere – home to the vast majority and well loved by the British
- Economic engines
- Under explored and poorly understood
- Diverse in nature (within themselves and between)
- Growing and thriving
- Some need more nurturing than others

City-Suburbs – Success and Failure

Many have experienced success due to:

- Quality of life
- Population growth and diversity
- Good schools
- Attractive environment
- Affordable and family friendly housing offer
- Draw of knowledge workers



But some have also experienced issues such as:

- Stagnating (population and economy)
- Ageing private housing stock and out of town 'sink estates'
- Transport pressures and inadequacies
- Pockets of deprivation masked by wealth
- Town centres under stress

City-Suburbs – a definition

For the purpose of this work, 'city-suburbs' are defined as:

“Those areas identified as located within a city-region that are predominantly characterised as residential in nature, often with a net out commute, but with distinct and strong communities and economies in their own right”

Successful City-Suburbs Project – USP

- Taking the chance to lead not follow on city-suburb agenda
- Reflecting reality (city-suburbs – where the city lives)
- city-suburbs on the map from an economic benefits angle
- Pushing the government to “invest in (city-suburb) success” for the benefit of city-regions as a whole
- Offering the government solutions that deliver access, influence and finance for city-suburbs

City-suburbs as ‘the home of aspirational Britain’

Successful City-Suburbs Project – what we're not

- Moaning
- Fiddling at the edges
- Looking to overturn the deficit funding model

Successful City-Suburbs – Early Headlines

1. The Home of Aspirational Britain
2. City-Suburbs' role in City-Regions
3. Financial Modelling
4. Further Research