Remaking Cities Congress
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Major Partners

Remaking Cities Institute, Carnegie Mellon University

The American Institute of Architects
The 21st Century City as an Innovation Hub:
Liverpool-Manchester – The Original Post-Industrial Story

Professor Erik Bichard
Regeneration and Sustainable Development
The Origins of Industry
Great Rivalry

- 30 miles and a chasm of goodwill
- 19th century battle of culture and commerce vs. manufacturing and enterprise
- Joined in 1830 by first passenger rail line (Stevenson’s Rocket)
- Import tax on cotton led to the Manchester Ship Canal (completed in 1894) and Britain’s 4th port
- Modern Airport wars, football teams, sub-regional economies
Liverpool the Great

- As late as 1901 known as the British Empires’ second city
- Gateway for emigration – 9 million embarked to Americas and Australia between 1830 and 1930
- Population 870,000 in 1930
- Wealth through moving goods and people
Liverpool in Decline

- Inter-war fall in manufacturing and containerisation damaged port economy
- Population halves to 460,000 in the 20th century
- Until recently poorest county in Europe below 75% of average EU GDP
- Port employment falls from over 100,000 to less than 2,000 in 50 years, and 76,000 go in manufacturing between 1961 and 1971
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Innovation? Culture and Liverpool

- Iconic municipal Architecture
- The Beatles and all that
Rollercoaster 1980’s and 90s’

- Tall Ships Race, International Garden Festival
- The La’s pre-cursor Britpop, The Farm pre-cursor Acid House
- But... Toxteth riots, Militant Tendency Council, disasters befall football team.
Albert Dock – Cultural Catalyst
Albert Dock 101

- Built 1845, closed 1972
- Political football in the Thatcher era as the Development Corporation took over control from Council
- Still isolated from the city centre
- Early attempt at multiple use space
- Attraction of Tate of the North
- Establishment of Maritime Museum
- Focus for new arena and Alsop’s Museum of Liverpool
Rope Walks

- 2001 – 2004
- Design to be a ‘Cultural Quarter’
- Fashioned from derelict warehousing and other building near city centre
- Incorporates iconic development including the Foundation for Art and Creative Technology and the Tea Factory
From this...
To this...
Capital of Culture

• Bid success in 2003 to host year long event in 2008
• Glasgow paved the way in 1990
• City claims almost £800M additional direct spend, almost 10M additional visitors (25% international almost all were there for the first time
Manchester’s Culture

- Lower key but possible as influential
- Hacienda Club popularises House in 80’s
- Factory Records (Joy Division, Happy Mondays)
- Smiths, Oasis follow
- Many clubs and studios spring up in old warehouses brings young people back to centre
- International Festival
Sport-led Regeneration

- 2002 Commonwealth Games
- Builds on global football brands
- £200 on sports, £440 on non-sport
- Legacy questions
Salford Quays

- Long-term effort at trickle down
- Only takes of with arts-based iconic buildings
- Establishment of Media-cit and arrival of BBC
Retail Saves the Day?
One Way to Regenerate Manchester

- In 1996 an IRA bomb destroyed a large part of Manchester – no fatalities but widespread damage
Liverpool Accepts

- Liverpool 1 is a Grosvenor Development
- It is built of the malls without walls concept
- £900M investment, 30 new buildings, 150,000m²
- 2ha of urban park
- Connector to Albert Dock and river
Hidden Lessons

• Governance

• Retail

• Culture
Why Should Governance Matter?

• Manchester authorities played along with central government, formed AGMA (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities) and later GMCA (Greater Manchester Combined Authority), most rejected a mayoral system

• Merseyside battled central government and each other, but Liverpool City now has a mayor

• Is innovation required to evolve governance systems?
Retail; the Answer?

• Both cities have benefited from a revival in retail fortunes
• Manchester now suffering from an out-of-town development at Trafford
• Liverpool keeping its own customers for the first time in 25 years
• Is it innovative to rely on retail to maintain economic fortunes?
Culture the Cure?

• Both cities benefited from cultural injections at key moments
• Liverpool making more of a living as a destination city right now
• What importance can be placed on the cities’ large student populations?
• Can cities innovate around new cultural experiences or is this ephemeral and vulnerable to fashion?
And Finally..

- How will we gauge the success of regeneration schemes when the criteria we use no longer fit new urban realities?