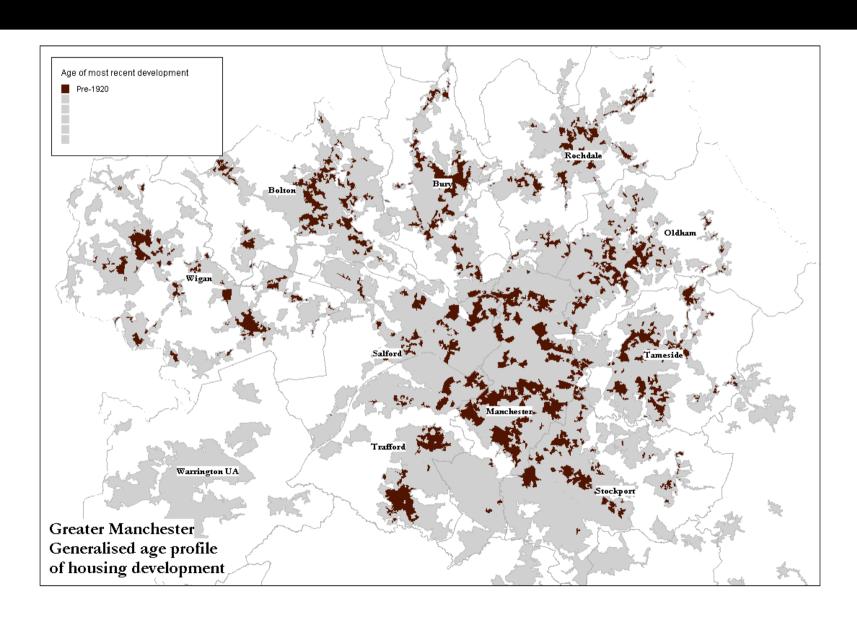
London School of Economics, January 28 2011 James Rees and Alan Harding, IPEG, University of Manchester

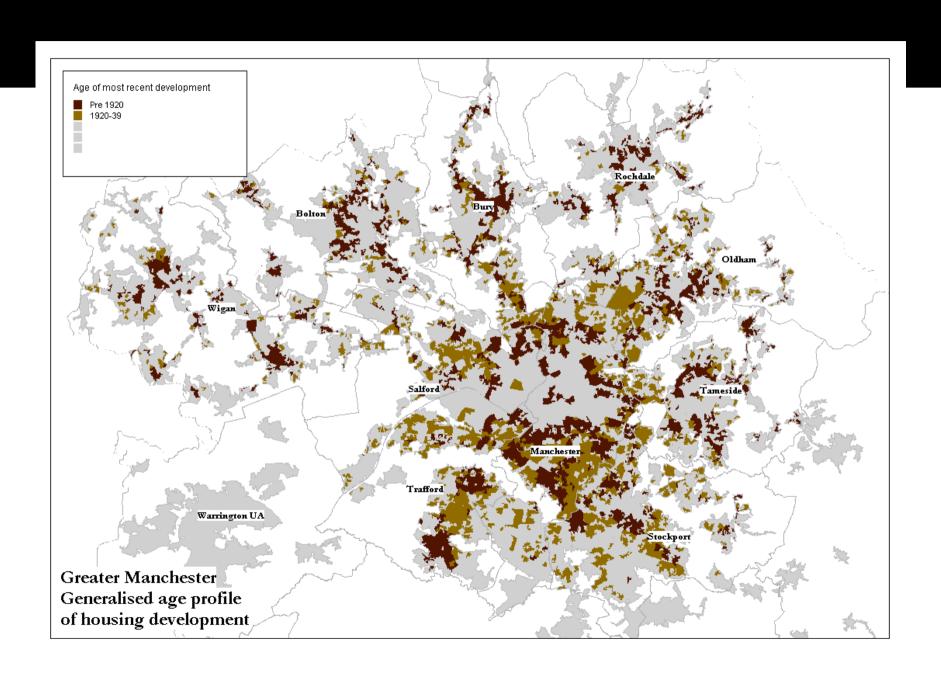
## Organised Manchester?

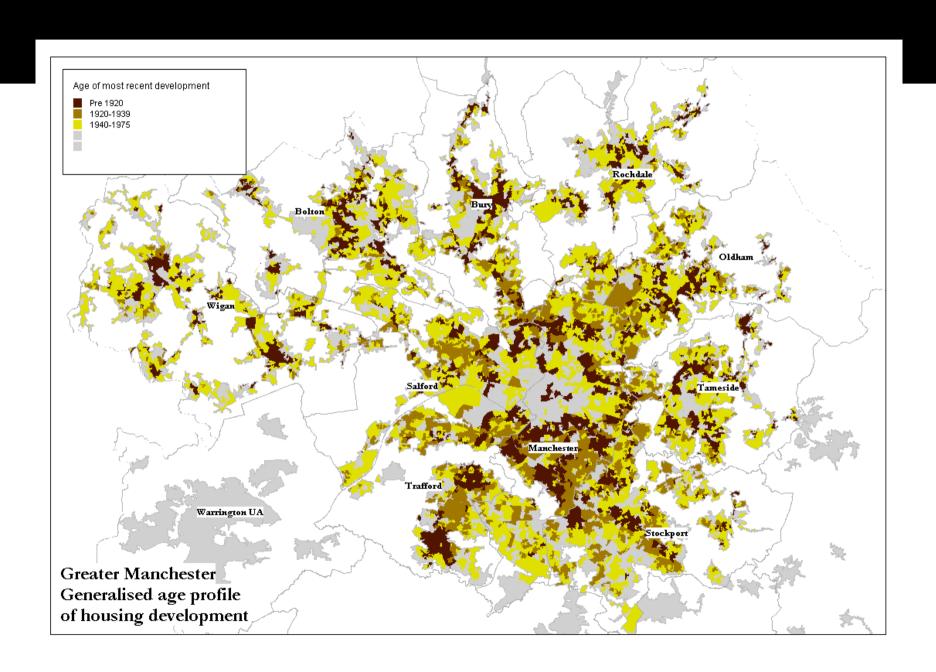
## A greater manchester 'structure of feeling'

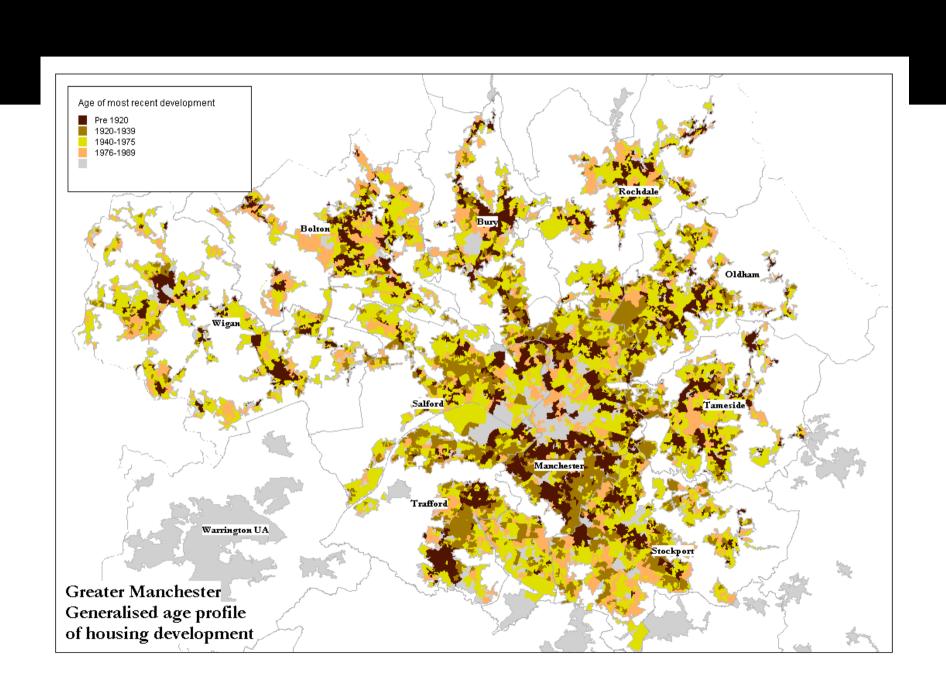
- Under-bounded core city
- 'Renaissance' centre, modern urban assets, modern labour market, southern-facing commuter belt
- Hollowed out inner urban area, industrial-era working class housing, 'social problems'
- Manchester grabbed Housing Market Renewal and other regen. programmes as tools
- Intense sense of frustration with deprived industrial left-overs, 'holding back' economic progress

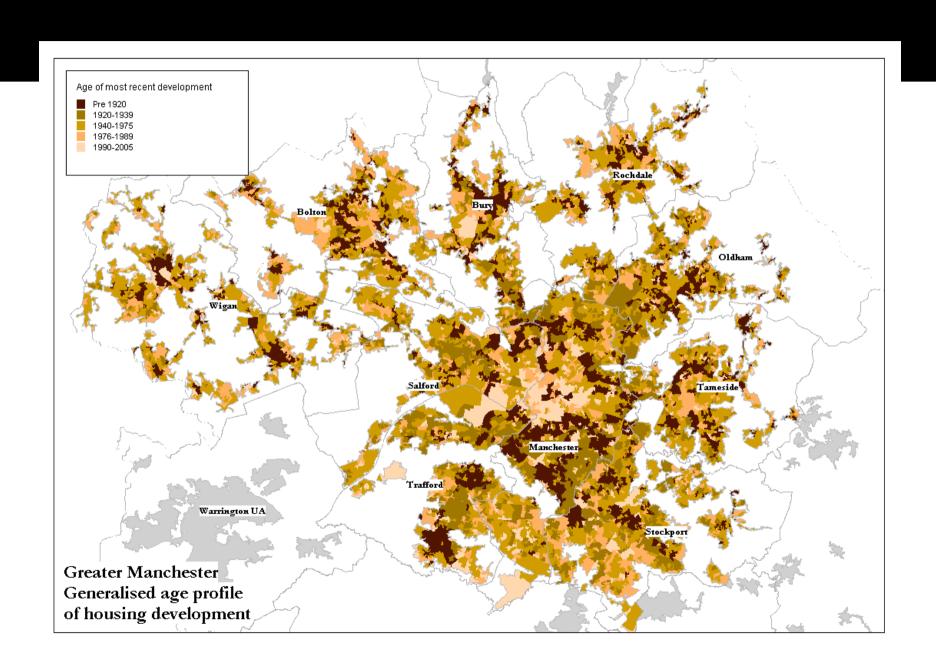
## Changes to the built urban form



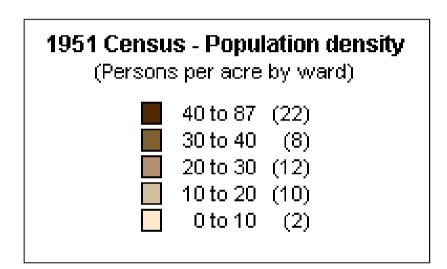


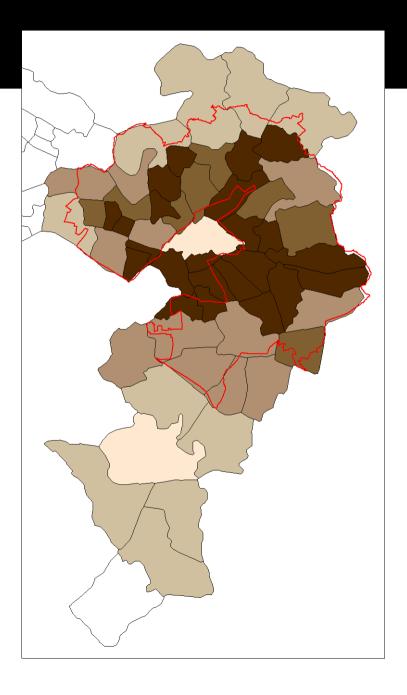


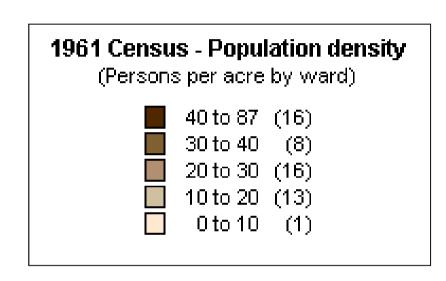


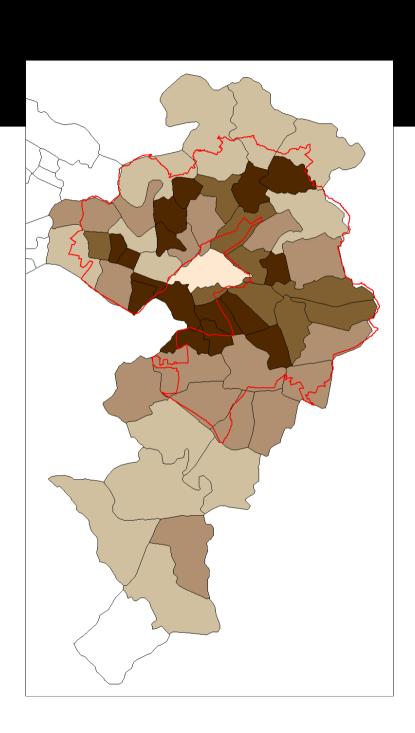


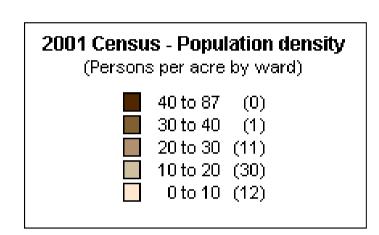
## Hollowing out

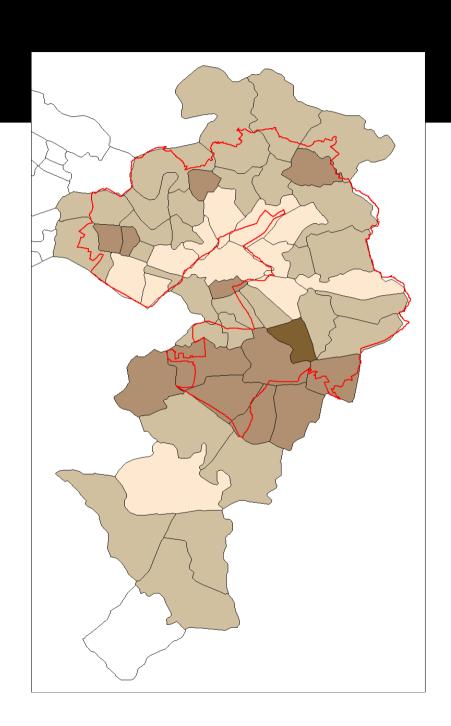




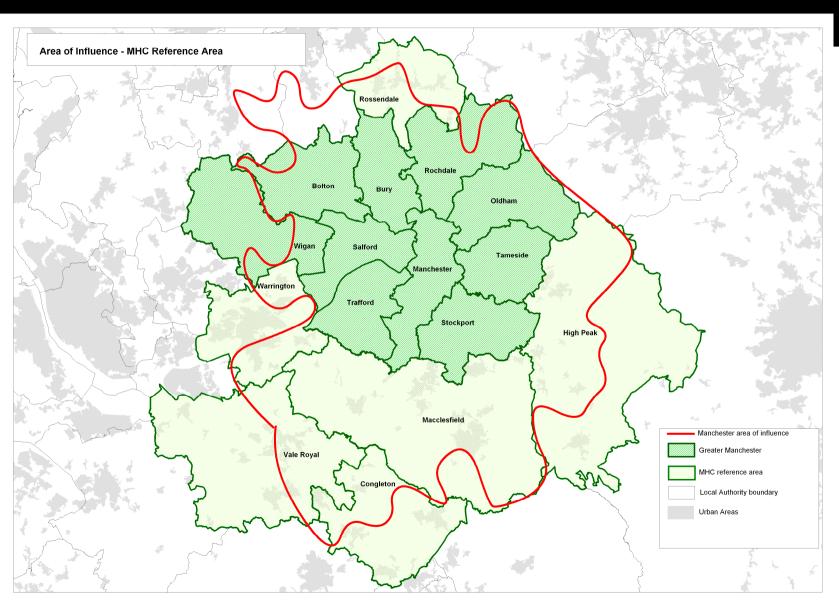








#### Labour market



# Manchester's hegemonic (governance) projects

- The 'Manchester Men'
  - Entrepreneurial turn, 1980s, private sector rapprochement
  - Labour Party stability/Benign dictatorship?
- New Economy, new economistic discourse, outward facing to globalisation, potential to complement London
- Ability to hold together territorial coalition,
   North-South, old-new economy
- Resilience, flexibility, adaptation to new government and austerity?

### Brokerage of physical projects

- Transport: Airport devt, M60 orbital completion, Metrolink (1990s)
- Key sites: Salford Quays, Trafford Park remodelling
- Regeneration: Hulme, Olympic bids and Commonwealth Games: Sport City and E. Mcr
- Post-Bomb reconstruction: MEN arena, shopping centre
- Gmex conference centre, Bridgewater Concert Hall, + mixed use commercial, and apartments
- University merger, BBC relocation, mediacity

# How the city region has been (re)constructed

- Abolition of GMCC 1986
- City region aspirations: attempts to land grab foiled, dormant under regionalism
- Post-regionalism: city regionalism by stealth in permissive national context
- Rapid governance reform and institutional development: MAA, CRP, CA
- Will flourish in era of radical localism?
   Geography of LEPs suggests 'yes'

#### Discursive construction of weight



Manchester Independent



The Case for Agglomeration Economies

Prosperity for all:

The Greater

Manchester Strategy

August 2009



Agglomeration and Governance: Greater Manchester in a European Perspective

Alan Harding, James Rees and Marianne Sensier Institute of Political and Economic Governance University of Manchester October 2010

NEWP 05

# City regional governance takes shape



#### **AGMA Commissions**

- Commission for the New Economy
- **(b)** Environment Commission
- ▶ Health Commission
- Dimprovement & Efficiency Commission
- Delianning & Housing Commission
- Delic Protection Commission
- Transport Commission

# Metropolitan governance – organised Manchester?

- Determined modernisation of urban assets
- Growing realism/maturity re. development patterns, inter-dependence
- Continuity, ambition, 'clout' of City leadership
- Growth of metro executive based on functional (south) and political (north) linkage
- Unique level of influence at national level
  - based on delivery record, influence, CR narrative
- Early mover in a 'decentralist moment'
- Biggest tests are around distributive justice inter- and intra-districts within GM

#### Growing autonomy to do, what?

- Ambitious city regionalism has been allied to new social policy
- Intervention through spatial pilots of reformed service approaches:
  - Early Years
  - 'Better life chances'
- Tackling deprivation and breaking cycles, to integrate into the labour market for (shared?) productivity and prosperity
- Taking better control of transport and infrastructure levers – emulating what city views as success of London (TfL)

#### Reflections

- Radical impulses in Coalition agenda:
  - Localism means (potentially) disregard for spatial disparities and Govt. dispassion towards 'losers'
  - Big Society means redrawing the boundaries of the state and shift of responsibility
- Underlying it has been (constrained) local autonomy, but local differences have been under studied by scholars of local government
- In absence of national spatialised-social policy, localist permissiveness and even encouragement of spatial divergence...
- Is Manchester an archetype of neo-municipal interventionist social policy?